

INSIDE: COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES COMMENTS

Presented on February 8, 2020

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS JOURNALISM



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

This year's special award winners

General Excellence

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
VT Ski + Ride, Middlebury, VT

Rookies of the Year

Alex Putterman, *Hartford (CT) Courant*
Christopher Ross, *Addison County Independent, VT*

Reporters of the Year

Erin Tiernan, *The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA*
Rich Salzberger, *The Martha's Vineyard (MA) Times*

Photojournalists of the Year

Peter Pereira, *The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
David Sokol, *GateHouse Media New England*



CONGRATULATIONS NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

This year's competition drew nearly 3,000 entries that were published during the contest year August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019. The entries were evaluated by the New England Newspaper & Press Association's distinguished panel of judges. The results of the competition listed here recognize the excellent revenue and audience building activities that are taking place throughout New England – the finalists and winners are listed, along with the judges' comments.

NENPA is proud to celebrate this truly extraordinary work!

Entries were judged in five categories:

- ◆ Daily Newspapers with circulation up to 20,000
- ◆ Weekly Newspapers with circulation up to 6,000
- ◆ Daily Newspapers with circulation more than 20,000
- ◆ Weekly Newspapers with circulation more than 6,000
- ◆ Specialty and Niche Publications

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REPORTING

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT
Surgical Soundtracks- Fascinatingly interesting, something not many know about, well written with just the right touch of humor and whimsy.

Second Place: Bob Keyes, Portland Press Herald, Portland, ME
With 3 generations of artwork challenging Americans this summer, Wyeths command a moment- A well-written piece that helps make the paintings come alive as the reader learns the stories behind them.

Second Place: Victor Infante, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Worcester Artists eye changing scene with cautious optimism- Good comprehensive informative look at the arts scene in the 'new' Worcester. Lots of sources, lots of interesting stories.

Third Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
"Hightown" films in Ptown- Good behind-the-scenes story that is well-written, interesting and entertaining. It captures the ritual of creating and filming scenes for a new TV show.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Dana Barbuto, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Tower of Power/Quincy Stuntman- Great story about a stuntman and what he does and how he thinks, written in an entertaining and compelling fashion.

Second Place: Steve Pfarrer, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Extraordinary Paintings of Ordinary Gals- Good, historical look at a woman painter who defied existing mores and championed her own insights and feelings in her painting.

Third Place: Chris Bergeron, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Bergeron Harvard Beetles - Beetles? A surprisingly good read thanks to clear, clean writing, and historical perspective about a rich man's unusual hobby.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Becky Pritchard, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
In sketches, parking meters have their say- Good piece about how a creative painter uses talent to deal with community controversy. It's a catchy, light and very human story

Second Place: Sally Pollak, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
At Bread and Puppet, an artful installation honors departed members, family and friends- A fascinating story about a unique and artistic way friends and family are remembered.

Third Place: Bill Eville, Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
For Scott Frank Staying True to the Process Is the Only Constant- Good story about a screenwriter and what went into his TV series, solid writing.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Mary Biekert, The Day, New London, CT
Southeastern Connecticut is under the social media influence- The rising power of social media influencers is documented in this story that may define the 21st century. That the story was written about New London makes it all the more relevant.

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Remaking Worcester Neighborhoods- A comprehensive look at the changing nature of Worcester's neighborhoods as the city meets the changing needs of its citizens. It is a document of a moment in time.

Third Place: Michel Puffer, Harrison Connery, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Getting Beyond the Ugly- This series of stories bears witness to the legacy of one of New England's long-time strengths - manufacturing - and how difficult it can be to unwind its decline in ways that benefit its now down-on-their-luck population centers.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Erin Tiernan, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Squeezed out: Quincy building boom leaves families behind- Perhaps the greatest impediment to economic justice in the expensive Northeast is the cost of housing, and this story captures the challenges facing

Quincy as it benefits from its proximity to Boston's booming economy through a balanced and insightful mix of personal reportage and quantitative back-up, while documenting Quincy's spotty record in helping its less well-off citizens afford a decent place to live.

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

Net Loss: Scituate's vanishing fishing fleet- The fishing industry has undergone seismic shifts over the last few decades, and this two-story series captures the issues from both sides - the fishermen and the fish mongers - while at the same time painting a personal picture of the coming death of the fishing heritage of one Massachusetts town.

*Third Place: Christopher Peak,
New Haven Independent, New Haven, CT*

Dickey Deals Kept English Station Dirty- An exhaustive examination of the dirty dealings surrounding the disposition of an ecological nightmare of a power plant. The reporter dug and dug and comes up with a precautionary tale about what can happen in the shadows of real estate dealings having to do with industrial sites beyond any use (or redemption).

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Scott Blake,
Providence Business News, Providence, RI*
IS R.I.'S MIDDLE CLASS SHRINKING?- Missing mid-level jobs affect the whole country. The Providence paper is doing its readers a great service by confirming their worst fears about the local job market and the arrival of the service economy. The profiling of the health care and construction areas are low-hanging fruit, but the hard numbers provided by the charts are very convincing. There is no comparison to other entrants.

*Second Place: Jessica Bartlett,
Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA*
High cost of seed capital by marijuana accelerators may be hurting sector diversity- Very detailed and easy to follow. Thanks to this publication, potential entrepreneurs can see what a minefield they're about to enter and how much savvy they need to navigate it. A real public service.

*Third Place: Jessica Bartlett,
Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA*
Advocates say cannabis contracts with town amount to 'extortion'- Finally someone inspects the on-the-ground process of a piece of legislation that has little precedent.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Who Wants to Work on a Vermont Dairy Farm? A Reporter Spent a Week Finding Out- Wading through the shock-value descriptions made this an interesting read, albeit one that really is more about process and operations than business per se. We get that this is a small operation, and it's fun to watch the gummed-up works. The immigration side gets short shrift, especially lacking a side-by-side comparison with other, similar operations vis-a-vis the cost-savings side of the equation. It's easier to describe when you should be doing more digging. That said, however, the writer has done considerable digging--literally and figuratively--to bring a microscope to everyday life at a dairy facility. Kudos to covering many aspects and getting into the muck which, in itself, is enough explanation of how such businesses are set up to fail.

*Second Place: Brian Bushard,
The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA*
Town Sets Qualifications for Second Pot Shop- A very interesting and solid look at the medical marijuana licensing process. Now, if we can just get a source who understands how sales traffic could/should be expected based on actual prospective customer counts, this would be a top-rated piece. As it is, it does shed light on the bureaucratic minefield and the consequences of politicizing a business. Government really seems to be the "fish out of water" in this endeavor.

*Third Place: Kate Cough,
The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME*
Walmart asks for millions in tax abatements - A very interesting story but unfortunately with Walmart sources not making a single appearance. The piece does, though, show the two-facedness of some businesses (i.e., give us property tax abatements and we'll bring lots of money to your local coffers and, oh yeah, we'll want some of that money back at some point while we drive your other establishments out of business).

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING, *continued*

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: Elaine Cushman Carroll,
Milton Times, Milton, MA

Renting and buying in Milton, MA - A strong consumer piece that profiles housing stock in the Milton area. The reader discovers the myriad of factors that relate to housing shortages. The series is strong in reader interest as it profiles the needs of the soon-to-be-retired, millennials and the elderly. The Times is in step with the much-needed trend of newspapers re-examining a traditional part of the American dream.

First Place: David D Kindy,
Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station construction changed the face of Plymouth- Really written well, this series could have been a 5-parter. But as is, it wins this category hands-down with a good combination of sourcing and perspective-setting. Very impressive.

Second Place: Josh O'Gorman,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
New tobacco laws impact cannabis products, sales- Unintended legislative consequences make this a cruel but interesting human situation that the writer covers with objectivity and some pathos. What an unfortunate mess but a fascinating read. Kudos to the writer for keeping tabs on the Legislature. All towns should be so lucky, to assure that local businesses don't "go up in smoke" of confusion and the unfortunate acts of myopic politicians.

Third Place: Michelle Sherburne,
Journal Opinion, Bradford, VT
Downtown hub set to open- Interesting piece, but told only from the view of the venture's potential. That means much anecdotal affirmation and little critical data with which the reader can judge for him/herself. That said, however, the reader gets a sense that local business may be making a comeback thanks to some out-of-the-box thinking and imagination. Good to see a reporter trying to cover the unorthodox for a change.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Mark Hayward and Shawne K. Wickham,
New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH
Bear Brook murders- Riveting series of how new evidence emerged in a 35-year-old murder case that left at least four people dead and many others deeply affected. The authors successfully translated complex details about the victims into well-written, engrossing stories. Excellent work.

Second Place: Brian Amaral,
Providence Journal, Providence, RI
Golden boy Ernst's fall from grace- Well-organized story about a legendary tennis star's fall from grace after his involvement with the college admissions scandal. The author leaves no stone unturned in relaying this ultimate saga about greed and graft. Very well written. Great use of interviews. Bravo.

Third Place: Edmund H. Mahony,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
When the examiner becomes the examined- Excellent story about the shadow side of forensic science - how blindly accepting forensic testimony led to the imprisonment of two men for three decades. This story is well-told, well-researched and a terrific read. Great job!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Alyssa Dandrea,
Concord Monitor, Concord, NH
Fighting Back: Confronting domestic violence in New Hampshire- Excellent comprehensive series on the prevalence of domestic violence in the state of New Hampshire. This series, supported by startling statistics, explores the complexities of this crime. The deep personal stories of the victims are riveting. Exceptional reporting and writing. Bravo.

Second Place: Cody Shepard,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Prosecutor: Crash scene strewn with bags of pot- Excellent story on the arraignment of a teenager whose alleged reckless behavior ended the lives of four of his friends. The reporter makes it clear -- through details of the crash and scenes in the courtroom -- that everyone loses in this situation. This story is well reported and well told. Congratulations.

Third Place: Rebecca Hyman,
Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA

DRUG COURT GRADS Meet the Taunton Drug Court class of 2018- This is a well-reported uplifting story that demonstrates how one municipality is addressing addiction one person at a time. The reporter carefully balances successes with failures, giving us an accurate map for those on the recovery road. Good reporting. Good writing. Nice job.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Kate O'Neill,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Trafficked: How the Opioid Epidemic Drives Sexual Exploitation in Vermont- Absolutely riveting story about the horrific intersection between opioid addiction and sexual exploitation of women in Vermont. The strong local news angle coupled with powerful personal accounts makes this a must-read. Excellent writing and research. Bravo.

Second Place: John Flowers,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Schmidt sentenced to jail and bill seeks to regulate massage therapists- Remarkable story about a voyeur who, under the guise of massage therapy, betrayed the trust of 30 women. The testimony of the victims is disturbingly clear. The incident -- and no doubt the reporting of it -- has prompted proposed regulations of the massage therapy industry. This story is well-written and well told. Terrific work.

Third Place: Amy Saltzman,
Cambridge Chronicle and Tab, Cambridge, MA
Solved: 1969 murder of Harvard grad student- There are few stories as interesting as a solved cold case -- and this 50-year-old murder is no exception. The story begins with the breaking news angle about forensics evidence but thankfully goes much further -- relaying the victim's last moments with stunning detail. Excellent story told well under deadline pressure. Good work!

EDUCATION REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Dan Glaun, MassLive, Springfield, MA
The fall of a Massachusetts special education school- Excellent investigation into what forced the failure of a Massachusetts special ed school. Well-written story with really in-depth reporting. Deserving of first place.

Second Place: Cynthia McCormick,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Where have all the children gone?- Keeping families with young children in towns on the outer Cape has led to some creative ways to educate them. Excellent graphics enhanced this story.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Paul Leighton,
The Salem News, Salem, MA
Questions remain in college closing- This is an excellent look at the events and the people involved in the closing of a small college. The reporter was thorough and wrote a compelling story, part of it as seen through the eyes of a former trustee of the school. Worthy of first place.

Second Place: Lauren Young,
The Milford Daily News, Milford, MA
Student Drafts Menstrual Products Bill- When a female high school senior decided that her school's bathrooms needed free menstrual products (they all have toilet paper, don't they?), she joined forces with a male state legislator to draft a bill to ensure that women students had what they needed. This was well-written and most readable.

Third Place: Dusty Christensen, Scott Merzbach,
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Hampshire in Transition- Although this series of stories could have used more editing, the topic--the closing of the small but prestigious-- Hampshire College was thoroughly covered and gave the reader plenty of details.

Third Place: Linda Murphy,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Flexible seating- It's fun to be in Ms Pacheco's classroom. You get to sit on nifty cushions and move around. Oh, and learn, too. Good feature story.

EDUCATION REPORTING, *continued*

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Molly Walsh, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Survival of the Smartest: Vermont's Colleges Must Adapt as Pool of Potential Students Declines- So many factors led these stories to receive first place. The graphics were dynamite. The topic, while not new, was covered thoroughly. The writing made me want to keep reading. And who knew that Vermont had so many colleges and that more than half of them have lost annual enrollment since 2007. Darned good read.

Second Place: Bill Shaner, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
How Sex Ed Really Died- In a community where the number of sexually transmitted diseases and the teen birth rate are high, school leaders argue over whether or not sex education is important. This was a well-done and interesting story that should have had a serious impact on the community.

Third Place: Emily Gowdey-Backus, Providence Business News, Providence, RI
Why don't students want to teach?- These stories are an interesting look at the decline in the number of college students who want to major in education and go into teaching. Good reporting on the problem in Rhode Island.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Alex Kuffner, Providence Journal, Providence, RI
Rising Threat; Troubled waters in Newport; Dodging deluges- Excellent. Great public service reporting about vulnerabilities to publicly owned systems as climate-change related risks, including sea level rise and more intense storms, rise. Deeply reported, well written and well organized. Excellent images, including some gripping original graphics and photographs, including historic photos. This is work that other news outlets should aspire to. Bravo.

Second Place: Cyrus Moulton, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
A new leaf/10 years after Asian Longhorned Beetle- Very nice work catching readers up on a city's response to an invasive pest that had to be contained over a decade. Deep reporting, solid structure and told voice and a storyteller's flare. (Yes to the narrative passages;

they create memorable stories.) Very good graphics. Super work.

Third Place: Jan Ellen Spiegel, The CT Mirror, Hartford, CT
With climate change brings hard choices- Extremely informative looks at local public policy issues related to global climate change. These stories are services to readers because they inform people about risks and problems many may not know about.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Erin Tiernan, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Picturesque and polluted- Extremely good dig into perplexing and serious health troubles in a community that has long lived alongside industry and could see more. Nothing exaggerated here. Everything is put in solid environmental and medical science context. Well organized, engaging, every word and sentence is crystal clear, not too long. Super service to readers.

Second Place: Paul Cuno-Booth, The Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH
Tank flagged by state part of environmental concerns still plaguing Keene property- Abandoned oil tank on a town property may not be the sexiest starting point for a story, but this is good accountability journalism. Years after the owner, the town and the state were notified, a documented hazard persists. Turns out the property owner has been in hot water elsewhere for not tackling clean ups. Who is going to keep everyone involved accountable if not the press? Nice work.

Third Place: Corlyn Voorhees, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Rebuilding the Rainbow's End Playground to cost pot of gold- This is a very deeply reported and clearly told tale about a former local treasure's conversion into a suspected environmental threat. And how no one is taking responsible for reviving or demolishing it. An unusual and hefty local news story. Nice work.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Rich Saltzberg, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Vineyard Wind- Bravo. This is excellent coverage of a very local, ongoing story involving what may be one of the biggest ecology-related projects ever proposed in Martha's Vineyard jurisdiction. Stories are clear and detailed, not sensationalist or partisan. Technical info is well translated. Fundamental, good beat journalism.

Second Place: Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Drain the Swamp? Scott Wades Into State Wetland Dispute- Nice investigative work. Is it appropriate for a governor to wade into a conflict between a homeowner and state regulators? This report doesn't take sides but it does a deep dive into what happened, giving readers lots of information with which to decide.

Third Place: Mike Freeman, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI
A Watershed Moment- A lot of what environmental journalism does, is make green infrastructure, invisible to so many, visible. This is an excellent example of that at a place facing a reckoning over its fragile drinking water supply. (That specifics of today's fragility is the news.) All wrapped up in a nice read. Very good work.

Third Place: Molly Walsh, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Snow Go: Short Winters, Warm Temperatures Bedevil Vermont's Nordic Ski Areas- This piece brings fascinating local news: The decline of natural snow pack at lower elevations is threatening some Nordic ski operations. Some are closing; others are adapting. Because they must.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Confession- Comprehensive examination of a diocesan report on sex abuse by clergy, and numerous follow-ups on that report. Reporting went far beyond the initial report, to look at this important issue from many angles. Well reported, written and edited. Thorough and fair.

Second Place: Bob Keyes, Portland Press Herald, Portland, ME
The manipulation of 'LOVE,' 'HOPE' and the life of Robert Indiana- Interesting piece on an interesting but hard-to-know man and artist whose life and work is embroiled in a post-mortem court entanglement. Leaves the reader wanting to know more about this man and his drama.

Third Place: Jackqueline Tempera, MassLive, Springfield, MA
Affairs, sex at Town Hall and a \$40K investigation; What's going on in Rockland?- Tackles a ticklish and complicated scandal in a generally clear recap of this

tangled tale. Fascinating small-town sex-and-politics drama, generally well told.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA
Merrimack Valley gas disaster ongoing coverage- This story, recapping the first three days of the pervasive gas fires that caused death, damage, destruction and fear in three Merrimack Valley communities, seems to be indicative of the careful, comprehensive coverage this newspaper devoted to this historic event. This story is crisply written, thoroughly detailed about the news of the event, and incorporates deftly the human element involved. So too do the multiple sidebars and folios indicate the Eagle-Tribune's excellent response to this tragic event.

Second Place: Hadley Barndollar, Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH
'Completely heartbroken': Beloved lobsterman loses addiction fight- Compelling account of a troubled and tragic soul. Well-reported and -written.

Third Place: Bera Dunau, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Last call at legendary Northampton bar- Touching piece combining feature elements into the news story about a historic bar's closing. Excellent quotes woven into this nostalgic piece. Well backgrounded.

Specialty Publications

First Place: Zachary Comeau, Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA
Slow marijuana rollout helping black market- An expansive takeout on a hot topic, rich in details and expansive in scope. The main story alone is worth an award. One of its highlights is providing context to show where Massachusetts stands in legal pot operations vs. other states. Enhancing that are accompanying stories and graphics that take the topic to a top-notch level of information. Even includes business advice and legal advice columns and an editorial.

Second Place: Mary MacDonald, Providence Business News, Providence, RI
HOW SAFE IS YOUR WORKPLACE?- Excellent reporting, writing, editing and layout of this under-covered topic.

GENERAL NEWS STORY, *continued*

Third Place: Jennifer Huberdeau,

UpCountry Magazine, Pittsfield, MA

Keeping the fair alive- Solid account about the current state of state fairs. Covers more than the local fair, and explores in some depth the upsides and downsides of running state fairs in the current day.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Bryan McGonigle,

North Andover Citizen, North Andover, MA

Gas explosion - A response to this major disaster equivalent in most respects to what would be expected in coverage: Details on extent of damage; a helpful guide to resources offering help to those affected; follow-up on the aftermath.

Second Place: Madeline Clark,

The Other Paper, South Burlington, VT

To SoBu or not to SoBu?- Serious but not overly heavy look at what comes off as a legitimate controversy in the community. Lots of voices represented in a balanced way. Well backgrounded.

Third Place: Max Sullivan,

Hampton Union, Hampton, NH

Dueling Trump Signs: Neighbors divided, not divisive- Different take on the never-ending Trump-loving and -bashing stories. As well-balanced a piece as is the friendship between these neighbors with opposite political allegiances.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Michael Cousineau and Paul Feely,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

No response No problem. Firefighters collect taxpayer-funded 'Christmas bonus' no matter what- Often the best stories are hidden in dreary documents. New Hampshire's Union Leader and reporters Michael Cousineau and Paul Feely discovered that 200 Manchester firefighters received a taxpayer-funded Christmas bonus in the form of payouts for fires that had never fought. The emerging front-page story, entitled "No response? No problem," revealed a municipal scandal that was hidden in plain sight.

Second Place: Shira Schoenberg,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Failures in the Massachusetts foster care system- MassLive came in second by a nose in this highly competitive category distinguished by stellar

reporting. Its multi-part series on failures in the state's foster care system is what government reporting should be. Relying on both case studies and detailed research, the paper wrote compellingly about the foster-care problem, how the government is responding, and how it might be solved.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Arrest of Mayor Jasiel Correia- (I know this is long, but this story merits it.) In these economically challenging times, every newspaper faces the decision sooner or later. When really big news strikes, do you focus on business as usual, or do you go all in on the emergency? The Fall River (MA) Herald News chose the latter option when then-Mayor Jasiel Correia II was indicted by the feds, refused to step down, and finally found himself defeated for re-election. Anticipating the indictment, the paper had pre-written the skeleton of a story for immediate update and posting. It put its entire reporting staff on the case (two reporters cut short their vacations) and pulled down its paywall so the entire community could access the first-day coverage. The paper made the most of all media available to it: Not only did it wrap its print stories in attractive but undistracting graphics, but it also live-streamed the press conference, conducted a reader poll, and managed the flood of activity on its social media channels. Most important, its reporting was fair, comprehensive, and jargon-free. No angle was overlooked. For political geeks, the paper offered online links to primary documents; for those with short attention spans, it ran an admirably brief "6 things to know" sidebar. Not surprisingly, the Herald News became the information source of record for media outlets nationwide. Look to its coverage if you want a master class in how to handle The Big Story when it strikes.

Second Place: Christopher Peak,

New Haven Independent, New Haven, CT

New Haven "Scoops and Tosses" \$160M in Debt- In New Haven, the alders voted for a \$150 million restructuring of the city's debt, after reaching a deal on how much of the savings should go to operating funds and how much to long-term fiscal challenges. Believe it or not, in three stories illustrated with bar and line graphs, Christopher Peak and the New Haven Independent make you care. Somehow they explain these mind-numbing concepts in a series that you actually *want* to read--and that teaches you a thing or two about municipal finances.

Second Place: Ben Berke, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
'People's selectman' called city Slumlord'- The Brockton Enterprise lived up to its name when it published Ben Berke's investigative series revealing that a 40-year selectman in West Bridgewater turned out to be an alleged "slumlord" in nearby Brockton, Massachusetts. This solid piece capably documents housing code violations both through citizen complaints and through careful review of city records.

Third Place: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Chickens- Nashua, New Hampshire, has a chicken problem. There's a theory that says if you want citizens to be interested in the legislative process, you should pick a bill that they'll want to read about. Perhaps that's why the Telegraph and reporters Adam Urquhart and Hannah LaClaire provided such detailed accounts about the progress of the city's urban chicken bill. Or maybe it's because it's not every day that a pun-loving editor can publish headlines and ledes about legislators "pecking" at the law, residents "clucking" over it, and the attempt by both to reduce the surplus of "chickens crossing the road."

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Emily Gowdey-Backus, Scott Blake, Providence Business News, Providence, RI
Can solar thrive without incentives?- When you finish reading the Providence Business Journal's two-part series on the state of the solar and offshore wind industries in Rhode Island, you can tell this is a publication that knows its audience. The pieces, written by Emily Gowdey-Backus and Scott Blake, illustrate the impact of governmental incentives (or lack thereof) in growing the energy industries, while also appropriately bold-facing the names of the companies leading the charge in the search for alternative sources.

Second Place: Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Backseat Driver? In Gov. Phil Scott's Administration, Chief of Staff Jason Gibbs Takes the Wheel- Paul Heintz offers a rollicking discussion about whether Chief of Staff Jason Gibbs may be calling the shots for his boss, Vermont Gov. Phil Scott. It's not entirely clear why it's important, but this inside-baseball political tour de force makes for a hell of a fun read.

Second Place: John Stanton, The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Has Town Meeting Run its Course?- After reporting on a Special Town Meeting that failed for the lack of a quorum, contributing writer John Stanton took a step back to assess whether there is still a place for an open Town Meeting in modern New England. One can't help but conclude its days are numbered.

Second Place: Noah Asimow, Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
How Tiny Aquinnah Saved Itself from Overdevelopment- Without wasting words, Noah Masimow wrote this eloquent, stunningly illustrated, gem of a piece. It takes a look at how one Vineyard community, Aquinnah, made decisions 20 years ago that have succeeded in allowing it to resist the overdevelopment that has plagued much of the rest of the Vineyard.

Third Place: Mary MacDonald, Providence Business News, Providence, RI
Can city speed development?- Why is it getting so difficult to build in Providence? That's the question addressed in depth in Mary MacDonald's well-researched piece. She does a particularly good job demonstrating the relationship between government incentives and real estate growth.

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: Steve Adams, Banker & Tradesman, Boston, MA
Affordability Goals Slow to Influence JP/Rox Development- Banker & Tradesman took on the complex topic of housing affordability in the region's largest city, and came up with a comprehensive, well-researched, and eminently readable analysis. The piece was written by Steve Adams with other B&T staff.

Second Place: Kris Olson, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA
The race to end all races?- This story, examines how an election can work if voters don't know anything about the candidates or the office. Kris Olson of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly cast light on the little-watched election results for Governor's Council.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING, *continued*

Third Place: Madeline Clark,

The Other Paper, South Burlington, VT

Vermont's childcare crisis- Combining an individual case study with close examination of state legislation, Madeline Clark of The Other Paper writes well not only about Vermont's child care crisis, but also about the various proposals for laws to do something about it.

HEALTH REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Mark Patinkin,

Providence Journal, Providence, RI

Touched by cancer- It was a privilege to judge Mark Patinkin's remarkable memoir recounting his journey through medical oncology. Deeply personal, the piece never strays from the human dimensions of cancer -- not just from the patient's perspective, but also through the eyes and hearts of the medical professionals involved in diagnosis and treatment. Patinkin's writing is exquisite, striking just the right tone in describing the emotional roller-coaster of a cancer diagnosis. Photos and packaging help flesh things out, but the real star here is the writing. At a time when journalism is increasingly preoccupied with visual story-telling, Mark Patinkin reminds us of the power of the written word. Thank you, Mark.

Second Place: Shawne Wickham,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Chronic pain - Patients rally for change in Concord (from Beyond the Stigma series)- Smart, interesting take on an unsuspected consequence of the opioid crisis -- new restrictions on opioid access have limited options for chronic pain sufferers. This four-part series illustrates clearly how regulators and insurers interact with medical providers to affect patient care, both for good and ill. Multiple interviews with chronic pain sufferers are particularly well done -- informative and often poignant, but never cloying. Good job.

Third Place: Karen Florin,

The Day, New London, CT

Four Hour Medical Miracle for Retired Judicial Marshal from New London- Staff writer Karen Florin recounts the compelling story of a 62-year-old retiree who undergoes a successful heart transplant procedure. That personal touch is both welcome and necessary, but the piece is fundamentally a primer on the transplantation process itself. Like all good medical

journalism, Florin keeps her narrative readable while effectively explaining a complex and highly technical subject in clear layman's terms.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Henry Schwan, Jeff Malachowski,

and Caitlyn Kelleher,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Heart Study- This thoroughly comprehensive four-part retrospective on the 70th anniversary of the Framingham Heart Study gets the nod in a VERY competitive category. It's all here: archival material tracing the ground-breaking study, numerous interviews with second- and third-generation family members, and much-needed perspective from the medical professionals and researchers who made it all tick. It's clear this project was well-planned and executed. Writing is straightforward and on point, with installments broken into digestible chunks. A worthy treatment of one of the most significant medical studies in American history.

Second Place: Roger Carroll,

Granite State News Collaborative, New Hampshire

A Journey Through NH's Mental Health System- Roger Carroll's first-person reflection on his longtime struggles with mental illness and subsequent introduction to the New Hampshire mental health system deserves a journalistic Purple Heart for bravery. With a clear-eyed focus and an absence of misplaced sentiment, he leads readers through a six-day stay at a locked psychiatric facility. The author lays it all out there in this three-part series -- a difficult upbringing, the institutions that previously failed him, and the system that ultimately responded ably to his recent mental health crisis. Thank you, Roger, for this courageous and important entry.

Third Place: Hadley Barndollar, Deb Cram,

Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH

Will to Walk- Definitely overwritten and a bit pretentious, with a meandering narrative that should have been better focused, but give reporter Hadley Barndollar and the Seacoast team credit for putting in the time and effort to connect intimately with a local family struggling with a father's sudden death and a daughter's affliction. Online presentation is very impressive, with extremely strong photography completing the package.

Third Place: Rebecca Hyman, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA
A PROMISE KEPT Donating a kidney because her husband was unable to- Compelling narrative about the widow of a stabbing victim fulfilling her late husband's wish to be an organ donor. Because the story itself packs an emotional wallop, writer Rebecca Hyman wisely refrains from additional embellishment. She doesn't overwrite and lets the details -- and the quotes -- speak for themselves. Sidebar adds a deeper understanding to the challenges of organ donation. Good job.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Ken Picard, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Exploring the Science, and the Snake Oil, Behind Regenerative Stem Cell Therapy- VERY thorough and reasonable consideration of stem cell clinics, which provide questionable therapy for thousands of dollars. Well written and diligently reported.

Second Place: Grant Welker, Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA
Worcester: New England's opioid capital- Very thorough and very easy to read about an important topic.

Third Place: Brittany Bowker, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Opioid epidemic hits home hard- Moving coverage of an important issue. Beautifully told. Excellent use of quotes.

HISTORY REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Cynthia Simison, The Republican, Springfield, MA
"Time is now to bring home war dead from Korea"- A thoroughly engrossing view of a contemporary cause through the eyes of one witness to history is brought to life through this writer's great attention to her narrative and the apparent trust and rapport she was able to establish with her primary subject.

Second Place: Michael DeGirolamo Jr., Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
An End to the Fighting- Spectacular imagery, quotes and descriptions woven effectively together with historical touchpoints to deliver a superb historical retrospect.

Third Place: John Ruddy, Julia Bergman, The Day, New London, CT
State Pier- A fantastic lede brings the reader into a well-written and comprehensive examination of this regional economic engine. The writer illustrates very effectively and engagingly the costs and impact of this project - that has been plagued with misfortune and poor planning from the start.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Jonathan Phelps, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Returning home: Marlborough airman's remains identified- The story of the return of Tech Sgt. Alfred Sandini's remains stands out because of the work that was done to link the details of history to its impact on family members of the present, and the enrichment that an interactive map and other multimedia elements provided.

Second Place: Steve Collins, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME
An Auburn murder in 1867 let to political feud in Augusta-

Third Place: Greta Jochem, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
The legend of 'Lesbianville'

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Nick Garber, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Middlebury recalls Cold War victory & Soviet student exchanges changed lives- A fascinating and engaging feature that does a wonderful job bridging local to global while providing unique insights into the important role its subjects played in this historical geopolitical event.

Second Place: Janice Harvey, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
Indian Hill Fire- While the subject of this feature is only locally significant - the writing style along with sensitive and sensational attention to detail provides a highly readable and gripping look back at this tragedy.

HISTORY REPORTING, *continued*

*Third Place: Derek Brouwer,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT*

UVM's Kake Walk Featured Blackface Performers for Decades- TIE - A provocative piece that frames a popular and well-received communal tradition against current events to deliver an award-worthy feature. Extremely well-researched and vividly detailed.

*Third Place: Noah Asimow,
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA*

Fifty Years Later, Chappaquiddick Still Reverberates- TIE - Kudos to the author and Gazette editorial team for eschewing convention and focusing on the role that the 'newspaper' of record' played in chronicling this now infamous event and its aftermath. I loved the pace and flow.

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

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

Wampanoags Among Us, Pilgrims Among Us- A community newspaper needs to be a mirror. The Old Colony Memorial in Plymouth, Mass., was that as it focused on the town's 400th commemoration by taking voices of the present to give a look back at the past. Emily Clark and the newspaper are commended for providing the space for its indigenous- and colonial-descendants to speak about their heritage and share their insights. This series offers the newspaper's readers well-told stories and histories, some of which were not reflected for far too long.

*Second Place (Tie): Sarah Hinckley,
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME*

What's in a name? Government entities disagree on Swan's Island spelling- Visitors to Swan's Island in Maine might never guess an imbroglio about an apostrophe lurked large in the island's history. The place name, from whence it came and where it went, made for a well-written and reported story by Sarah Hinckley in the Mount Desert Islander. Her writing and reporting would make an English teacher proud, and any reader nodding their head with approval. A good piece of local history that never once made the eyes glaze over.

*Second Place (Tie): Tommy Gardner,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT*

Moveable feasts- Stowe is synonymous with skiing, or at least that's what people who don't live in the area might think. Those close by, or who remember long-ago visits, know food and drink are also a part of the town. Tommy Gardner of the Stowe Reporter set a table that tells a history of mouth-watering food and, perhaps, memories of too much to drink. His story is a fun, well-written recounting of the eateries that fed and quenched skiers and others over the years as they traversed the Mountain Road.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

*First Place: G. Wayne Miller,
Providence Journal, Providence, RI*
Redemption: the fall and rise of Mark Gonsalves- Beautiful and sensitive story-telling about one man's journey from his worst days to the best of his life.

*Second Place: Dom Amore,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT*
Baseball's timeless tale- Steve Dalkowski's story isn't really about baseball, or a young pitcher with a phenomenal arm. His inability to escape the grasp of alcoholism makes you deeply sad, makes you smile, reminds you that there are no certainties with the gifts we're given, whatever they may be.

*Third Place: Doug Fraser,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Clock shop owner all about saving time- What a fascinating step back in time, so to speak. A fascinating glimpse inside a world where the past is alive -- and keeping John Anderson busy -- tending to the health of treasured timepieces.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

*First Place: Hadley Bardollar, Deb Cram,
Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH*
Will to Walk- A beautiful and hope-lifting story of a family's resilience from heartbreak and hardship.

*Second Place: Jonathan Phelps,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA*
Casting a Legacy- Fascinating and well-written piece, a "where is she today" about a woman with a unique and prominent place in women's history.

Third Place: Steve Pfarrer,
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Jarrett Krosoczka uses art to come to terms with a difficult childhood- A compelling exploration of the childhood pain -- the "hard truths" -- that shaped the life of an award-winning author and illustrator of children's book.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Dan Bolles,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Who Shot Mr. Cheeseface? The Vermont Demise of a Famous Mutt- A breezy, fun, breathless whodunit, told with pace and anticipation. Mr. Cheeseface may, in fact, may be the greatest dog name ever, but he has a life story to match and the writer doesn't miss a beat, covering all the bases, filling in all the blanks, heightening the drama. The narrative is contextually rich, the characters colorful and real. Wonderful topic; a story told with thought and precision and a strong human touch. To wit: Many dogs are afraid of thunder. But De Pierro believes Mr. Cheeseface's fear was something deeper: a premonition. "I think he knew what was going to happen to him," De Pierro said gravely. "I think he knew he was gonna get shot." Say no more.

Second Place: Brad Kane,
Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA
The Canal District group text- Interesting business story, explained clearly and written with a satisfying flow. Nice presentation, too, with a breakout box of the business owners and examples of their text threads.

Third Place: Darren Marcy,
Manchester Journal, Manchester, VT
Local icon 'Pal Joey' takes his last walk- A well-done and fully developed profile of a simple man whose community mission was more than meets the eye. Stories like these help to give a fuller sense of life in a community that is the sum of all its parts, not just a few. A nice blend of color and detail give life to "Pal Joey," to those who knew him, but moreso to those who did not but might have wished they did.

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: Pem McNerney,
The Source, Madison, CT
The Secret to Arnold's Success May 22, 2019- This feature is written with a clever sense of place, journey and history -- a fun, full, conversational read. The

cadence is deliberate and effective; the story puts the reader squarely in the writer's shoes, all senses heightened. Still, despite the unique voice, the author never gets in the way. The piece is wonderfully descriptive and stitched together with brief, but lively quotes ("One senior and a Junior Mint, please"). It's also written with an economy of well-chosen words. The read is tied up beautifully, if not brilliantly, with an unexpected -- or not -- ending to cleanse a popcorn-and-Coke covered palate. And who knows ... maybe an espresso to go.

Second Place: Emily Clark,
Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Darlene Nickerson: OCM Person of the Year- Poignant, short-format tale of one person's quest, ability to perform life-saving work with animals and, at the same time, to help to soothe the pain that animal abuse and neglect can heap on humans.

Third Place: Tommy Gardner,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Now you see me ... - The art of the deal of being a magician, told well, engagingly, and with just the right hint of context (Caribou, the second-largest city in the nation's second-largest county."). A good magician story, after all, can never be a full reveal.

INVESTIGATIVE / ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Jacqui Rabe Thomas,
The CT Mirror, Hartford, CT
How some of America's Richest Towns Fight Affordable Housing- This series of stories holds the powerful accountable on one of the most important issues of our time--income inequality and its underlying causes. Bravo!

Second Place: Joe Wojtas, The Day, New London, CT
Stonington teacher resigned mid-year- An excellent example of investigative reporting that exposes a school system's failure to protect children.

Third Place: Dan Glaun,
MassLive, Springfield, MA
Police lobby assault- A strong piece of reporting that provides compelling evidence of excessive use of force by police and an attempt to coverup their wrongdoing. Well done!

INVESTIGATIVE/ENTERPRISE REPORTING,

continued

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

Arrest and Fallout of teacher's arrest- A superb example of in-depth investigative reporting that holds the powerful accountable and results in significant change.

Second Place: Dusty Christensen,

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

In a Glass Box- A terrific example of building on an investigation done by others by adding new and significant information to the story. Well done.

Third Place: Haven Orecchio-Egresitz,

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Sweet Brook- Excellent in-depth reporting on an institution impacting dozens of people. Great work!

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Greg Ryan,

Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

Risk on the rise- Excellent work uncovering a serious hazard impacting thousands of people in Massachusetts. Investigative reporting at its best.

Second Place: Alicia Freese,

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

For Vermont's Sheriffs, Policing Is a Lucrative Business- A superb piece of work that exposes what happens when no one is watching to ensure that a government agency is only working for the people's interest.

Third Place: Grant Welker,

Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA

Tax Breaks: Paying for Growth- An excellent piece of enterprise reporting that digs deep into an issue that impacts taxpayers across Massachusetts.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Staff,

The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Recall of Mayor Jasiel Correia - election- Thorough coverage of a complicated recall/election process. The page 3 recall corner was a handy way to keep readers up to date without writing entire stories on incremental goings-on and reminders on how the

process unfolded. Talking to people as they left the polls was another way to take the pulse of a community rocked by a scandal that drew national attention.

Second Place: Mark Pazniokas, Keith Phaneuf,

The CT Mirror, Hartford, CT

The race for governor- Excellent coverage of the issues and the candidates in the Connecticut governors race. This is good public service journalism that looked at the race from multiple perspectives including the NRA, the ground game, the budget deficit and more.

Third Place: Bera Dunau,

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Five districts, five paths to victory- Interesting exploration of the outcome of five different districts and what it will mean for the future. Each segment provided detailed maps and clickable links to earlier stories for good context.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Staff and community,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Local general election preview stories, letters, profiles, results and follow up- Extremely ambitious and well-executed coverage of statewide elections. Candidate profiles, letters to the editor and even an editorial guiding voters on questions to ask themselves in order to make an intelligent decision on whom to vote for supplemented the basic coverage. Good followup with results as well. It had everything but the kitchen sink. This paper was all in!

Second Place: The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Local Election Coverage- Excellent coverage of the issues and races leading up to the election. Election preview stories were nicely packaged with identifying banners. Great reader service provided by complete candidate bios and full tables after the election.

Third Place: Joanna Tzouvelis,

Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA

Election - The importance of local elections is showcased by the amount of effort, and space, this paper devoted to them. Lots of letters to the editor and opinion pieces that served to give readers what they needed to make informed voting decisions.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Josh Kovner,

Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The Turbulence Within- Profiling someone who's no longer with us, particularly under these hellish circumstances, is no easy task. Josh Kovner does a masterful job of using public records and his subject's own writings to tease out a detailed and gripping portrait.

Second Place: Kathleen Megan,

The CT Mirror, Hartford, CT

Election of first openly gay Kid Governor is a milestone. But coming out wasn't easy.- From the playful intro to the closing quote, this is a highly engaging read that's filled with surprises.

Third Place: Greg Saulmon,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Life's Work: Ray Mason, the Pioneer Valley's king of rock 'n' roll- Compelling quotations are the oxygen in a story, and Greg Saulmon's skillful use of them fills this portrait with breath and life. The photos and videos are extra delights; together, they make a wonderful package.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Marc Larocque,

The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

'I was just her kid' – Brockton foster mom cares for 240 boys- Marc Larocque pays touching tribute to Massachusetts' own Mother Teresa in this fine portrait of a remarkable human being.

Second Place: Elodie Reed,

Bennington Banner, Bennington, VT

NAACP Vermont director talks upbringing, race relations in her home state- Imagine growing up brown in one of the whitest states. Elodie Reed gets Vermont's NAACP director to open up on her "hypervisible and invisible" life in the Green Mountain state.

Third Place: Andy Castillo,

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Flipping the script on loneliness- Andy Castillo's poignant, elegantly written profile of an elderly woman's determination to hit the road while she still can is worth your time.

Specialty Publications

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

Training for Life: The Story of Sarah True- This powerful portrait pulls back the curtain on a superstar athlete and her long-concealed struggles with depression. Mental illness can't be written about enough, and Lisa Lynn does it masterfully here.

Second Place: Bob Curley,

Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

Buying Newport- This is a textured, nuanced look at a man some might love to hate. Bob Curley does a terrific job of talking to key people around his subject to fill in the blanks for the reader. Well reported, nicely written.

Third Place: Geoff Currier,

Martha's Vineyard Arts & Idea, Vineyard Haven, MA

If these walls could talk- This intriguing profile is as much a portrait of the house as it is of its storied former owner. Geoff Currier brings both back to life.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Steve Myrick,

Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

Straight Talk, No Chaser; Trying to Keep Up With Everett Poole- Steve Myrick's faintest touch of snark perfectly matches his curmudgeonly subject. The color and detail really bring the reader into this old salt's store -- and his life.

Second Place: Holly Pretsky,

Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

A Bright Light in the Hour of Darkness, Lenny Verville Eases the Way- Profiling a funeral director can be a tricky undertaking, but Holly Pretsky's tasteful, nuanced portrait takes us into a world few of us go willingly.

Third Place: Maureen O'Reilly,

Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

Mini Bottles — Mega Mess: Agawam man on a daily quest to get trash off the streets- This is a lively profile of a fascinating local character. We'll never look at a man picking cans the same way again.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE, *continued*
Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: Rob Kiener,

Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The Kidd from Stowe- Bright writing and skillful juxtaposition of Billy Kidd in his heyday and today make this a can't-put-down profile -- even if you've never strapped on skis.

Second Place: Emily Clark,

Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

Celebrating LGBT Pride Month with Plymouth gay artist Gerard Donelan- A singularly powerful and important portrait. Emily Clark really managed to coax some deeply personal insights out of her subject.

Third Place: Alissa Silber,

The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT

Daniel Hasselberger Continues To Beat The Odds With PMG- It's always gratifying to see a newspaper revisit someone, but this fine portrait of a very brave young man is much more than a followup -- it's a window into a world not many of us could handle.

OBITUARIES

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Nicholas Rondinone,

Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The Toll Of Trauma- This story was very well handled, especially when considering the very difficult and emotionally sad circumstances surrounding Jeremy and his family. The writer did a great job balancing the many aspects around all of this.

Second Place: Wayne Phaneuf,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Obituaries- A great job sharing the details of the remarkable life of Dave Starr. This piece goes through his many accomplishments, but also gives us a feel for the many lives he touched throughout his career.

Third Place: Craig Semon,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Legendary Worcester rocker dies- Excellent job putting together this fine tribute to a legendary musician!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Marc Larocque,

The Enterprise, Brockton, Brockton, MA

Remembering a Brockton Original Colorful career took lawyer ... - This is a wonderful tribute to such a vibrant, lively man who lived a remarkable life.

Second Place: Jonathan Phelps,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Retired Red Sox photographer, Jack Maley, dies at 95- Very well written - this really captures the flavor of a very beloved man and an excellent photographer.

Third Place: Jacquelyn Voghel,

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

The thing itself: Family, friends, writers remember life of editor Richard Todd- Great tribute to a man so many people admired and looked up to. Richard Todd would have approved of this piece.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Letitia Baldwin,

The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Sue Hubbell, 10/25/18- An obituary can be more than a recitation of events from someone's life—it can take you on a journey through their life. Letitia Baldwin allowed us to join Sue Hubbell's culinary road trip. This obituary weaves anecdotes and big-picture context to help us understand Hubbell's contributions and adventures. Baldwin expertly brings in quotes and particular detail so we can experience the major turning points in Hubbell's life and see how she lived it. And the kicker quote honors it all. Outstanding.

Second Place: John Stanton,

The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Augie Ramos, Gone at 85- The power of obituaries is often in their ability to render the life of the subject in a way both expansive and particular. The life of Augie Ramos was both distinctive and illustrative of life in his community. Like all good stories, this obituary both shows and tells in an effective manner, and it leaves readers feeling as if Augie was an old friend.

Third Place: Bill Eville,

Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

Peter Simon, 71, Chronicled Island With His Camera- Obituaries of well-known people pose a challenge: How do you describe a person's prominence without overstating things, while at the same time help us see their humanity? Bill Eville's obituary of Peter Simon effectively summarized Simon's privileged life and then brought us in close to show us — rather tell us — why Simon meant so much to his friends and the community.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Amanda Burke,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Defacement of graves at Fall River Jewish cemetery-
Excellent coverage from many sides of a local story that had national and international impact. Good coverage of public events enhanced with representation of some of the broader issues involved in the defamation.

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

SOMOS FAMILIA Hispanic infusion has helped make Hilltoppers one big family- excellent coverage of how Hispanic infusion is impacting one aspect of community life -- baseball. A sports story that rises above the playing field.

Third Place: Kevin Andrade,
Providence Journal, Providence, RI
Ripped away- Sensitive report on the tragedy many immigrants face and endure and in this case succumb. Writing could be tighter but a good mix of narrative and background information.

Third Place: Elizabeth Roman,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Families see 'light at the end of the tunnel' one year after Hurricane Maria- Well written, timely report that brings the human effect of a tragedy into focus

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Zachary Comeau,
Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA
People of color left behind in legal marijuana industry- An insightful, readable story about an economic issue of personal concern to minority residents. Useful graphics.

Second Place: Courtney Lamdin,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Burlington Mayor's Attempt to Diversify Leadership Falls Short- Good in-depth research and reporting to spotlight the lack of diversity in leadership.

Third Place: Dave Eisenstadter,
Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA
Anti-Racism Now: Chipping away at racism by talking face to face- Extensive coverage of program through the voices of people involved. Good reading but kind of long.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Dave Altimari,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Rise and fall of the Rev. Daniel McSheffery- Altimari thoroughly researched and skillfully presented the horrors of McSheffery's crimes and the church's legal battles with respect to the sexual abuse suits.

Second Place: Anne-Gerard Flynn,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Bishop's legacy under cloud as DA receives sexual abuse claim-

Third Place: Deborah Allard,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Closure and reopening of St. Anne's shrine-

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Sasha Goldstein,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Bible Study on Aisle Three: Church's 'Pushy' Tactics Spook Vermont Shoppers- Ms. Goldstein skillfully reports on the intrusive tactics of an unfamiliar church with travelling members that have arrived in Vermont.

Second Place: Mariya Manzhos,
The Winchester Star, Winchester, MA
St Mary's-

Third Place: John Flowers,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Teen offers glimpse of Muslim community's concerns-

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Josh Kovner, Dave Altimari,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
A Killer's Obsession- The Courant showed its exemplary commitment to the public's right to know by spending five years pursuing information about one of the state's most tragic events. The newspaper's persistence — despite the long and costly legal battles required — set the standard for public record pursuits. Only through this persistence do we now have an expanded understanding of the Sandy Hook shooting and what might be done to prevent such tragedies in the future.

RIGHT-TO-KNOW, *continued*

Second Place: Staff,

Newport Daily News, Newport, RI

Right to Know - Portsmouth School Department Investigative Report- Refusing to take "no" for an answer, the Newport Daily News fought for an investigative report on the suicide of a local high school student. While this pursuit of truth by itself is worthy of recognition, the newspaper also strove to explain to readers why the battle was worth fighting. This education on why newspapers seek sensitive information is a public service in its own right.

Second Place: Rich Saltzberg,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Coast Guard Lead- Fundamental to the public's right to know is government accountability. Through dogged reporting and public record use, the Martha's Vineyard Times helped explain how the U.S. Coast Guard failed the children living on its grounds. But perhaps even more importantly, the reporting helped protect the public by providing a better understanding of the lead paint dangers that still exist and what remains to be done.

Third Place: Staff,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Right-to-Know- Utilizing public records to break stories and to enhance our understanding of communities should be a daily goal of every newsroom. The Republican-American shows the collective effect this type of reporting can produce. By routinely defending the public's right to know, the newspaper is reminding officials that they will be held accountable for their actions and providing readers the transparency they deserve.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Sara Tabin,

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Blood, Sweat and Shears: This Benson Sheep Farm Produces an Unusual Crop- A first class work, including in-depth reporting, compelling writing, and some very good explanations of how the reporting was done - and some very clear explanations of the science itself. Impressive job.

Second Place: Tommy Gardner,

News & Citizen, Morrisville, VT

Science for small towns- A terrific portrait of a good science teacher and why he mattered, told with grace, and illustrating the importance of science studies at the high school level. Excellent job.

Third Place: Middlebury College Chem students,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Controversial technology could improve our world, CRISPR- A smart collaboration between a newspaper and a local college with some carefully told insights into genetic modification. Glad to see this kind of innovative partnership take place.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Madeleine List,

Providence Journal, Providence, RI

Pregnancy riskier for black women- Terrific job in localizing a national trend - the disparity between pregnancy complication for black women in contrast to whites. I wish though that the editors had given more space on p1 to this story and had a better display of the statistics.

Second Place: Rebecca Lurye,

Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

In Hartford, Gun Violence Is Rarely Far From Children's Eyes- Very impressive presentation on the toll that exposure to gun violence is on the youth of Hartford, and the programs that the city has to deal with the trauma.

Third Place: Elizabeth Roman, Leon Nguyen,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Residents, business owners reflect on the neighborhood MGM Springfield visitors will see- Good setup piece for the neighborhood soon to be changed by opening of casino.

Third Place: Shira Schoenberg,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Springfield middle school principal comes out as transgender- Well-written piece on an event that was likely the talk of the town for a week or more. Piece did well to describe pressures on the principal and statewide precedents.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Erin Tiernan,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Seeking Shelter: A look at Quincy's homeless- This is how to cover a crisis in the community - complete with compelling narratives, data and some ideas for a way to go forward. Immense work!

First Place: Neal Simpson, Mary Whitfill,

Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

When love kills - Another top-notch entry from the Patriot Ledger's staff. The paper needs to be commended for its social conscience and its thorough reporting.

First Place: Hadley Barndollar,

Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH

Opioid crisis, system shortfall wounds New Hampshire's children- Great coverage of an extraordinary need to find safe houses for kids at risk in New Hampshire. Data box would have been good!

Second Place: Hadley Green,

The Salem News, Salem, MA

The fruits of their labor- I want to work for an editor who found this story! A joy for the community!

Third Place: Josh Solomon,,

The Greenfield Recorder, Greenfield, MA

Should we show compassion?- 30 Level three sexual predators living in Greenfield, the living hell their lives have become.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Brittany Bowker,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

The faces of food insecurity on Martha's Vineyard- I liked this total commitment of the news organization to a nagging problem - hunger on the island.

Second Place: Emily Gowdey-Backus,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

DIVERSITY ELUSIVE IN CONSTRUCTION- Advocacy journalism at its best - sorely needed issue of RI construction industry lagging behind employment of women and minorities on construction sites, and what is being done to address the problem.

Third Place: Chris Goudreau,

Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

From the Valley to the Border-

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: James Kukstis,

Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Pride- Terrific complete picture of the challenges faced by gay students in local schools and community. Fabulous job!

Second Place: Julia Shipley,

Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The Valedictorian- I so admire this story, both the care the reporter showed to the subject and subject matter. Bravo!

Third Place: Elaine Cushman Carroll,

Milton Times, Milton, MA

In Massachusetts, gay marriage nears 15- Terrific localizing of the impact of the gay marriage act passage.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Harrison Connery,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Batmen- An unusual story, rich in fascinating detail and very well presented. I did not realize how far we have come from the monopoly of The Louisville Slugger.

Second Place: Mike Anthony,

Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Racing Ahead, No Limits- There were many heart warming entries, but this simply grabbed me and wouldn't let go. Ryan Smith just will not be denied.

Third Place: Matt Vautour,

MassLive, Springfield, MA

Springfield's Central City Boxing is saving troubled kids; Can it be saved?- We all know there are humanitarians like Dean Fay out there, but not many have someone as gifted as Matt Vautour to present their stories. Whatever anyone thinks of boxing, Dean Fay puts it to good use.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Tommy Cassell,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

A list to live by- Stories of people battling serious illness are not uncommon, but Jake Silver's approach to a terminal situation is especially moving. Tommy Cassell applies just the right touch.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY, *continued*

Second Place: Kyle Grabowski, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Erik Ostberg spends baseball's offseason working out with Ahmed brothers- If you like baseball, you will love this behind the scenes story of how players are made and trained. Erik Ostberg has a count ear for dialogue!

Third Place: Tom King, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Silver Knights set to put offseason of tumult behind them- This story is a master class in reporting. Reading this gives you a superb insight into the complexity of running a minor league baseball team.

Specialty Publications

First Place: Walter Bird Jr. and Bill Shaner, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
The Perfect Pitch- Well-designed and thoroughly reported. Covered "all the bases."

Second Place: Abagael Giles, Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT
The New Hunters and Why We Need Them- Interesting look at modern-day hunting and why it's important. Well-reported and constructed.

Third Place: Lisa Lynn, Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT
Training for Life: The Story of Sarah True- Detailed so that I felt I understood and knew well the subject of the story.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Derek Brouwer, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
The Mighty Bucks: Pro-Football Dreams Lead Vermonters to a Humble Arena- The details make the story. In-depth reporting at its finest, leading to a well-crafted feature story.

Second Place: Noah Asimow, Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
Not Going Gently or Gracefully Into That Baseball Good Night- Creative and well-written feature that was fun to read.

Third Place: Andy Kirkaldy, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Following a childhood dream, Golden Gloves boxing- Interesting and well-reported story that evoked strong images.

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: Pem McNerney, The Source, Madison, CT
Race. Wreck. Fix. Repeat. - Exceedingly well-told story. Felt as if I knew the story subjects well. Good job connecting and making the reader feel the emotions of the subjects.

Second Place: Andrew Martin, Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Best goaltender in Vermont?- Thorough reporting. Felt as if I knew all sides of the story subject.

Third Place: Andy Hutchison, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT
Trio Brings Dedication and Professionalism to the Newtown High School (Scorer's) Table- Interesting story about people associated with the games who we typically don't know anything about.

SPORTS STORY

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Shawn McFarland and Alex Putterman, Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Critics worry about prep transfer trend- Strong story on the growing concern about high school athletes using prep schools to try to fulfill dreams of being a pro athlete — and those who decide to stay at their home school. This tackles the subject from a variety of perspectives.

Second Place: Shawn McFarland, Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Esports is sweeping the nation and Connecticut high schools are the latest groups to join in- Timely and easily understood, even for readers who have never seen — let alone played — League of Legends or Fortnite The historical background of the sport in Connecticut is localized to the paper's readership, but it's the kind of story any general news outlet could/should produce.

Third Place: Chris Cotillo,
MassLive, Springfield, MA

How Alex Cora advanced English-language skills to become one of baseball's great communicators- An offbeat story about how Red Sox manager Alex Cora uses his bilingual ability to talk directly and seamlessly with all of his players.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

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

Players show support for Rudolph- Strong reporting on a hot topic for the time. Made me want to know if he filed the appeal and what happened next. Nice job of explaining the rule in question.

Second Place: Tommy Cassell,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Sam's Squad- For those readers who weren't at the 5K race for autism, they could still experience the event. Good use of details and emotion.

Third Place: Geoff Smith,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Lee native to be inducted to Springfield College Hall of Fame - Interesting details from her past that illustrate what a trailblazer this woman was to earn her Hall of Fame nomination.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Abagael Giles,
Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT
The Mountain Warriors- Fascinating topic with real-world ramifications. The reason for the team's race result provided a nice ironic twist at the story's end.

Second Place: Mike Mandell,
The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
YMCA director gets roughed up - Although the headline is a bit misleading as to what the story is about, the author's use of that incident set the stage for a broader look at bad fan behavior.

Third Place: Andy Kirkaldy,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Hatch 31 claims outhouse title — at last- A light-hearted, entertaining look at a team's long quest for glory in a unique competition.

SPOT NEWS STORY

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Patrick Johnson,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Family says woman killed by train pushed her granddaughter out of the way - From the lead to the final punctuation, this reporting was exceptionally well scripted, maintained continuity through various changes in focus, and provided a comprehensive overview of this horrific incident and the lifesaving bravery exhibited by the victim.

Second Place: Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Fatal shark attack on Cape Cod- Reporters Fraser and Bragg did exemplary work infiltrating this incident scene and doing follow-up interviews while witnesses were still inclined to recount their vivid observations - and participants appeared willing to candidly discuss their roles in the attempted rescue and resuscitation. Then they proceeded to lay out the details of this breaking news story from myriad gripping angles including the important reminder of the science / biology behind why the attack likely happened.

Third Place: Rebecca Lurye,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Flood of overdoses leaves seven dead since Monday- With little time to react as this story was unfolding, this reporter embedded herself in this unfolding series of tragedies highlighting multiple aspects of the story - from candid conversations with active users, to public health officials, and the always challenging wild card of dealing with law enforcement agencies. Throughout, she maintained critical focus on the expanding introduction of fentanyl into the broader selection of illegal drugs within hours and days after they began hitting the streets of Hartford and neighboring communities.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Mary Whitfill,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Wife murder suspect captured- Whitfill exhibits great spot news reporting that crackles straight off the ledes of both segments of this story. The reporter evidences an apparent good rapport with police in gathering and relating details of the suspect and arrest - and delivers an equally compelling and readable sidebar on the victim.

SPOT NEWS STORY, *continued*

*Second Place: Claire Galvin,
The Chronicle, Willimantic, CT*

Car chase ends in fatal shootout- Galvin's recounting of this harrowing situation and its tragic outcome is textbook in its structure, but presented in a highly engaging narrative.

*Third Place: Kyle Stucker and Karen Dandurant,
Fosters Daily Democrat, Dover, NH*

Firefighter dies in apartment fire- While the opening could have been stronger - the reporting on this tragedy is nonetheless thorough, comprehensive, and sensitive.

Weekly Newspapers

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

Look out - 160 stuck on lift- This spot news story is well served by a lede that few reporters might offer and fewer editors or publishers would carry through to print. Gardner has woven together an amazing amount of detail relating vivid descriptions while providing readers a unique analysis of a high altitude rescue situation while never straying far from the element of human drama that kept this reader engaged to the end.

*Second Place: Caleigh Cross,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT*

Glider crashes in rugged terrain; 3 killed- Cross exhibits a wonderful skill combining the tragic facts of this story with a well-scripted transition and subsequent tribute to the local personality and pilot who was involved. The reporter helped the readers not only understand the dynamics of the incident, but the very human impact of its sad outcome.

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

Alleged shooting scheme foiled- Well scripted and refreshingly thorough reporting given the fact that so many key details remained under wraps. Flowers exhibited fantastic initiative in accessing sources and sorting details into an important spot news report that maintained flow and continuity to the end.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Daily Newspapers

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

Broken Roads- Two comprehensive packages on Connecticut's proposal to impose highway tolls for the first time in three decades shared 1st place by focusing on the pocketbook issue. The Republican-American gained an edge as the first to publish, but The Day evened the contest with a sidebar focused on tourism, a vital local industry.

*First Place: Lindsay Boyle,
The Day, New London, CT*

Everything you need to know about tolls- Two comprehensive packages on Connecticut's proposal to impose highway tolls for the first time in three decades shared 1st place by focusing on the pocketbook issue. The Republican-American gained an edge as the first to publish, but The Day evened the contest with a sidebar focused on tourism, a vital local industry.

*Second Place: Michelle Firestone,
The Chronicle, Willimantic, CT*

Somebody's loving turtles- Nice feature on a mystery turtle benefactor making and posting roadside signs warning drivers to be careful of turtles crossing the roadway. Included summary information on local species, as well as state regulations governing the posting of signs on state roads.

*Third Place: Ben Berke,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA*

Train service to Boston every 15 minutes an elusive dream- The Enterprise provided solid reporting on how Brockton and nearby communities would miss out on state-funded commuter rail upgrades because of limits to the existing infrastructure.

Weekly Newspapers

*First Place: Rich Saltzberg,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*

Steamship Authority- With outstanding enterprise, the MV Times revealed a 25-year-old consultant's report showing that management deficiencies detailed in last year's highly critical report on the Steamship Authority shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone as they'd existed for years.

Second Place: Brian Dowd, Lucas Thors, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
VTA strike- With routine-but-essential local news reporting, the MV Times provided extensive and detailed coverage on labor problems that led to a strike at the island's vital bus service.

Third Place: Steve Rappaport, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Buoy thieves range along Maine coast - An entertaining, enterprising and thorough approach to what might have been handled as a routine police-beat story about thieves stealing the bells on navigation buoys along the Maine coastline.

WEATHER COVERAGE

Combined Newspapers

First Place: John Stanton, The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Rising Sea Levels: The New Normal?- The Inquirer and Mirror produced an incredible 5-part series on how rising sea levels will affect Nantucket, giving readers solid information on best and worst case scenarios. This series was an eye-opener on the impact to the island and residents, and detailing ways to prepare for and combat the effects of inevitable rising sea levels.

Second Place Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Tornado ravages Cape Cod-

Third Place: Benjamin Kail, The Day, New London, CT
Connecticut preps for weather extremes, flooding highlighted in climate report-

HEADLINE WRITING

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Tom LaValley, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Cora-nation!- A classic.

Second Place: Charles LeClerc, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Pencils down- Certainly to the point of the story.

Third Place: Peter Donahue, Providence Journal, Providence, RI
So much needling- Aweigh game. ah, salt water and sails.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Bianca Pavoncello, New Britain Herald, New Britain, CT
Present danger- perfect, just perfect. says it all.

Second Place: Anika Clark, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH
Here comes the sun: For energy needs, local church turns to higher power- the sun, the church the higher power. Oh my God nicely done.

Third Place: Tim Jamiolkowski, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Headline Writing- An ending with a nice ring to it. Start with an ending to a fine tale. You can almost hear it.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Michael Kane, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA
Irish 'ayes' are smiling.
You don't have to be Irish to appreciate this headline.

Second Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Blood, sweat and shears - Makes me smile.

Third Place: Stephen Fay, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Ageless in the outfield - You can feel their effort on the field.

COMMUNITY/AUDIENCE INVOLVEMENT

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI
Ninth Annual Newport Life Writing Contest- For nine years Newport Life has been providing amateur writers a showcase for their work. Editor Fred Albert calls it a privilege and he makes good on his word with a high quality and well-designed engaging section. A great way to share the community with the community.

Second Place: The Lincoln County News, Newcastle, ME
GSB Students Investigate- Sending eighth graders to investigate the community and write about it produced some interesting copy for the Lincoln County News. Excellent way to attract young students, their families and all that know them.

COMMUNITY/AUDIENCE INVOLVEMENT,

continued

Third Place: Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Schools of Thought- Teaming up with the local high school brought the Marshfield Mariner a trove of commentary on a wide variety of subjects, many of them provocative. Good effort to connect with young people and let the community know what they're thinking.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Karen Montini,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Community Karen- Ambitious project which just might be a model for the future. Part show biz and part news. The company reports it is bringing community groups and their news back in the paper and online, creating new content. Not everyone could pull this off but the Republican-American and Community Karen are on to something and score high marks. Bravo!

Second Place: David Brooks,

Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

David Brooks, Concord Monitor- The Granite Geek lives up to his name traversing New Hampshire for lofty topics not seen in many newspapers. He's the equivalent of a full-court press with a daily blog and weekly columns, newsletters, and podcasts. To top that off he hosts a monthly dinner with a panel of his choice to field audience questions, and those sessions are broadcast on local television.

Third Place: Gwenn Friss and Olivia W. Burns,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Curious Cape Cod- Nice variety of challenging and engaging topics, some of them supported by video, running on an almost weekly basis. A lot of papers do this but the Cape Cod Times sets the bar high.



SECTIONS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Julie Ann Weekes,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

"NH Weekend" provided the most wide-ranging regional A&E coverage within in its class. The sheer number of local bylines and the scope of its content is a testament to their commitment and understanding of the New Hampshire A&D scene. Bravo!

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

Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll- Useful, comprehensive, well-presented section. "Quick Looks" provide helpful guidance on upcoming events.

Third Place: Maria Reagan, Kristina Dorsey,

and Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT

Arts by the Numbers- The Day does a solid job of covering its local A&E scene, although it lacked the depth and local-ness of the Cape Cod and New Hampshire sections.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Berkshires Week, June 13, 2019- Best Bets: Powerfully presented, comprehensive, entirely local section. The "best bets" section is a must-read for anyone in the area, and the writing is strong throughout.

Second Place: Dana Barbuto,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Strong Suit- Patriot Ledger Thursday "Get Out" A&E section. Strong visuals, well-written and impactful stories, a useful "GO Guide" with curated events. Content is tightly edited and highly local.

Third Place: Max Marcus, Andy Castillo and Staff

The Greenfield Recorder, Greenfield, MA

Artistic notebook doodles- Greenfield Recorder. Impressive array of deep features and local content in this well-designed section.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: Connie Berry, Brittany Bowker, and Chris Silva,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
MVTimes Calendar- MV Times -- Comprehensive section featuring numerous staff-written features, strong arts coverage and a robust calendar. Strong visual presentation, well edited and useful.

Second Place: Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
August 3, 2018 "A" Section- Vineyard Gazette - robust calendar, wide array of features; strong writing and well edited.

Third Place: Elsie Lynn Parini & Staff,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Arts + Leisure Section, Dec. 18, 2018- Addison Independent - thorough coverage, useful calendar and extensive storytelling

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Combined Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Overview- If you ever wanted to create an outstanding business section, this is the one you need to see. Sixty-four pages of everything you'd want to know about Hancock County Maine, courtesy of The Ellsworth American and the Mount Desert Island. It offers everything- from in-depth coverage of more than a dozen local issues and detailed profiles of each community, right down to a chart of visits over the years to Acadia National Park.

Second Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Business Insider June 9, 2019- The Berkshire Eagle is off to a great start with a new and expanded business section. In 12 pages it offers an ambitious variety of stories combined with the nuts and bolts of land transactions and faces in the news, etc. It appears to cover all corners of its vast circulation area. Strong design makes it an easy read.

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Business Matters- Good blend of content with a focus on in-depth local reporting.

EVENT SPECIAL SECTION

Combined Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
tournament issue 2.14.19-

Second Place: Connie Berry, Kristoffer Rabasca,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Ag Fair supplement-

Third Place: Addison County Independent,
Middlebury, VT
Field Days 2019-

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Matt Burdette,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Telegraph Editorial Pages- Much to choose from, with a variety of reader contributions.

Second Place: The Ellsworth American,
Ellsworth, ME
Editorial/Commentary Page 10/25/18 Sec. II Page 1-
Spare but pleasing.

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Point-Counterpoint- Much for the reader to choose from, well laid out.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Edible Vineyard, Edgartown, MA
Dishing- Comprehensive and compelling. I felt like I better understood the area food scene after reading these pages.

Second Place: Pem McNerney,
The Source, Madison, CT
Food Court- Energetic in color, coverage and page design. Nice work.

Third Place: Abagael Giles,
VT Ski + Ride, Middlebury, VT
A Table At the Farm- Solid reporting and attractive photos.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION, *continued*

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Food Page, Nov. 21, 2018- Great example of complementary text and images. While there are plenty of bagel how-tos out there, readers surely appreciate the local and authoritative voice. Overall, a page which strikes a nice balance between personal and professional.

Second Place: Linda Murphy,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA

All from scratch- Attractive layout, but what distinguishes this page is the calendar column, which creates a sense of immediacy sadly absent from similar newspaper sections.

Third Place: Melanie Hitchcock,
New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH
Flavors: Snack attack- Be careful with wordplay involving foreign languages, which can come across as disrespectful. But nice work keeping the page local.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Berkshire Landscapes, March 31, 2019- How lucky readers are to have the curation and skill of these editors and writers! This section celebrates every corner of the artistic world of the Berkshires. I wanted to see the plays, read the books, enjoy the art! The 20 women section is masterful local history. Feast on!

Second Place: Bennington Banner, Bennington, VT
Southern Vermont Landscapes 072019- Strongly local, useful Top Picks. I found the interviews compelling because the writers honed in on the human stories. As good a section as papers three times its size. Well done.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Living Page or Section 8/9/18, Sec II, Page 3- Flowers, story telling, opera and more. Picks the top items in town, strong sense of place, multiple interviews in lead piece. Motivates a resident to go and do!

Second Place: Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
August 3, 2018 B Section- Excellent local history article on religious revivals/gingerbread houses. Could use more listings instead of just features to be more useful.

Third Place: Holly Camero,
The Beacon-Villager, Acton, MA

Art Scene- Though the lead feature is perhaps but not the most important A&E event in town, the section is well organized and useful.

SPECIAL SECTION OR EDITORIAL SUPPLEMENT

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Summer Times- Spectacular photography, vibrant writing. excellent coverage of every imaginable summer activity.

Second Place: Nancy Schoeffler,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The Year In Pictures - Serious, silly, sad, dramatic, euphoric, historic - every kind of photography imaginable, excellently executed.

Third Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Making the Grade 2019- Great effort, fine reporting and writing.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Falmouth Enterprise, Falmouth, MA

Portrait of Recovery - Stories of Hope- Serious journalism here. Comprehensive, well written, sensitive stories. Nice touch with "stories of hope."

Second Place: Britt Bowker, Kristofer Rabasca,
and Chris Silva,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
The Local- Dynamic, comprehensive, great centerfold.

Third Place: The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Year in Review 2018- Good writing. Important issues covered well.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Combined Newspapers

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
"A Battle for the Ages"- Remarkable use of graphics throughout. The explanations and visual storytelling help tell the story of the incredible run the team has had in the Super Bowl.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA
Season of Sox-Cess Celebrating the Red Sox 2018 Season and w/World Series Championship- Excellent coverage of a historic run.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA
2019 Boston Red Sox Hit, Pitch, Repeat- Solid preview section.

SPORTS SECTION

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Laurie Los Lee and Brendan Kurie, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
ST sports section- The cover photo was phenomenal. I got a sense from the high school Super Bowl coverage just how important this team seems to be to the community. I do wonder if girls sports receive similar blown-out coverage like this. The entries in this competition were all heavily skewed toward football.

Second Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Sports Section, June 23, 2019- The baseball photos were terrific. I liked the diversity to the section with different sports and outdoor recreation. Boys lacrosse players were recognized. Were girls lacrosse players recognized another day?

Third Place: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Football Tab- Refreshing to see so many ads in a newspaper! Nice to see that high school football tabs still sell. Good job providing detailed information of each team, including schedules and rosters (with uniform numbers). I know that's not an easy task.

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Andy Castillo: Staff, The Greenfield Recorder, Greenfield, MA
The legacy of Michael Kittredge: A burning candle- A simple, powerful image mourning the death of the founder of Yankee Candle. Appropriately, a candle.

Second Place: Jacinta Meyers, Paul Choiniere, The Day, New London, CT
State begins taxing plastic bags- Humorous but sharply etched look at a new state law.

Third Place: Don Landgren, Jr., Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA
GateHouse Media layoffs - Simple but effective take on newspaper cutbacks.

EDITORIAL WRITING

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Journal Opinion, Bradford, VT
Someone rein in this reign of error- These editorials are short and sweet, to the point with pungent language. The paper even takes a swipe at itself; I liked that.

Second Place: The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Mud season has arrived, Law of the Land, The LePage Legacy- The editorial decrying mudslinging is a classic!

Third Place: Marianne Stanton, The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Town Meeting; Island's Homeless; Heartbreak of Addiction- The editorial suggesting a change in the town meeting is an exceptionally well-reasoned attention-grabber.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Casey Junkins, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Casey Junkins- Well-written editorials, almost breezy. I loved the one about the ordinance regulating pet chickens. Not every editorial has to be sober and steadfast.

Second Place: Chris Harris, Andy Castillo, and Joan Livingston, The Greenfield Recorder, Greenfield, MA
Bank of America, Downtown vandalism, Keeping the public's business in the open- Nicely done, well-written, just the right length.

Third Place: Heather Goodwin Henline and Matthew Burdette, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
The writers even inject life into the formulaic political endorsement editorials. Well written.

COMMENTARY

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Scott Van Voorhis, Banker & Tradesman**, Boston, MA
Time to Worry about WeWork- A lucid and prescient analysis of an ill-fated startup. Great job.

Second Place: **Caleigh Cross, News & Citizen**, Morrisville, VT
American, on purpose- Poignant. An immigrant takes us along the road to citizenship.

Third Place: **Brian Dowd, Gabrielle Mannino, The Martha's Vineyard Times**, Vineyard Haven, MA
Exclusive rights, and wrongs- The authors keep their cool as they take a swipe at CBS for seeking exclusive coverage of a graduation on Cuttyhunk.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: **Cheryl Charles, The Daily Item**, Lynn, MA
That dialogue about race? First, talk among yourselves- No pulled punches or sweet talk in this commentary. Straight from the heart.

Second Place: **Steve Krause, The Daily Item**, Lynn, MA
I am the proverbial grey-haired white guy you keep hearing about- A refreshing take on white privilege. Well-written.

Third Place: **Brooke Hauser, Daily Hampshire Gazette**, Northampton, MA
'Be less white, please'- Self-examination by an editor. Thoughtful and provocative.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times**, Hyannis, MA
I can't find my glasses- Tale of Two Holidays.

Second Place: **Seth Brown, The Berkshire Eagle**, Pittsfield, MA
The Pun Also Rises- Let's Not Make It Official

Third Place: **Ron Chimelis, The Republican**, Springfield, MA
1. Don't blame me - Trump asked my opinion 2. Hoping all is not lost when I'm 64- Hoping all is not lost when I'm 64!!!

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Darren Marcy, Manchester Journal**, Manchester, VT
Humor Columnist, Marcy- Monkey business.

Second Place: **Karl Lindholm, Addison County Independent**, Middlebury, VT
Retirement career & proud to stay the course- Retirement career.

Third Place: **Alice Coyle, Norwell Mariner**, Norwell, MA
Go Ask Alice- Clean up aisle 12.

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Combined Newspapers

First Place: **Jon Lender Hartford Courant**, Hartford, CT
Jon Lender - Jon Lender is from the old "I Smell a Rat" school of investigative journalism. Reading one of his columns is like reading a thoroughly involving short story. The narrative is one of corruption, usually subtle and circumstantial. Lender is too smart, too thorough and too familiar with the vagaries of the human condition, the law and the system to be fooled. What he lacks in pure lyricism, he more than makes up with street smarts and knowing how to find where the bodies are buried. The politicians of Hartford would justifiably be terrified if his name turns up on their caller IDs, because chances are he already knows the answer to the questions he's going to ask. Jon Lender exemplifies what it means to be a watch dog columnists. The readers of the Hartford Courant are exceptionally lucky to have him looking out for the community's best interests.

Second Place: **Jack Spillane, The Standard-Times**, New Bedford, MA
Political Columnist - Jack Spillane- The New England region is lucky to have such an impressive range of two-fisted columnists who don't forget an unspoken obligation to entertain readers even in the midst of their crusades. Jack Spillane's chronicle of former New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang at the crossroads is a thing of beauty. It captures the ambiguity and questions still swirling around the respected pol who, despite conflict of interest suspicions is still a bit of a folk hero in his community. But it is Spillane's column about the city's suspicious and unexplained computer problem that drew this reader in the most. Jack Spillane is what you get when a first rate reporter turned columnist gets his

nose out of joint about something others consider a minor inconvenience. Spillane's run through the various possible scenarios explaining the city's computer problems is a satisfying waltz through a pointlessly bureaucratic haze. He attempts to cut through the techno-babble and ritual "no comments" to put the pieces together for us. He isn't afraid to use his powers of deduction and inference. Jack Spillane is a truth seeker. If every newspaper had two or three Jack Spillane's on staff, our democracy just might survive another century or so.

Third Place: Jill Goldthwait, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Political Columnist, Jill Goldthwait, 11.22.18 & 3.7.19-
Jill Goldthwait is the rarest of regional political columnists -- she's both lyrical and relevant. Her lovely meditation on the architecture of Maine's capital flows nicely into a plea that Augusta Democrats not flaunt their new majority with bullying tactics against the Republicans. She reminds the Democrats that until recently, their positions were reversed. Her call for tolerance never sounds utopian or unrealistic. Ms. Goldthwait has the sort of editorial voice I would look forward to reading all the time. Even the way Ms. Goldthwait lists the banal, but interesting things about Maine is entertaining. She has an editorial voice that would also be perfect for a local NPR affiliate.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Bill Eville, Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
The Ballad of the Neighborhood Bunny; Between the Rock and a Hard Place- Rock and a Hard Place

Second Place: Jennifer Falvey, Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
Jennifer Falvey- Glad Rags.

Third Place: Renee Diaz, Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA
The Struggle is Real- Guacamole.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Charles Winokoor, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA
A reporters reflections on a cop's cop- Cop's cop.

Second Place: Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA
1. Farewell to Soo's, which bonded a family 2. 11 reasons why U.S. education is better today- Farewell to Soo's.

Third Place: Susan Pawlak-Seaman, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Sue Seaman - serious columnist-

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Matt Vautour, MassLive, Springfield, MA
The legacy of Dick Rehbein- What I most appreciated with these columns is the columnist did reporting. He spoke with people and provided perspectives his readers might not normally hear, especially regarding how to handle athletes accused of abusing women. The best columns are columns with reporting.

Second Place: Mike Anthony, Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Mike Anthony sports columns- Very well-written columns with nuance. Not everything in sports is black and white, as evident by the mixed feelings of the Whalers' return to Hartford and that we truly don't know who athletes are.

Third Place: Tim Dumas, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Story and Running with Strider- I enjoyed the play off names of runners in the marathon. It reminded me of something Steve Rushin used to write many years ago at Sports Illustrated. Nice job having fun with that column.

DESIGN

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Christina Grogan, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
Crane watch map- Interesting and informative map of busy construction.

Second Place: Christina Grogan, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
Timeline for Boston Calling story- Beautifully done!

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS, *continued*

Third Place: Virginia Zimmerman,
The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT
The Newtown Bee Front Cover Christmas edition, December 21, 2108 - Delightful! This peaceful illustration really draws you in.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Kimberly Kirchner,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
New England Spirits & Specialties Guide to Glassware
- Love this! Informative, fun and so easy to understand. Well done!

Second Place: Andy Castillo,
The Greenfield Recorder, Greenfield, MA
Comic book invasion- Beautiful illustration! Sets the mood for the comic book show. Kudos!

Third Place: Tom Lynch,
New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH
Who's getting NH's donations- Informative and easy to read. Nice!

FRONT PAGE

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Grand slam!- Attractive and thorough coverage of a significant local event. The attention-grabbing headline and illustration convey the importance of the subject. Sidebar stories and graphical elements provide support. Page lacks variety but compensates by pursuing the main subject from different angles. Layout is airy and approachable.

Second Place: Jim Flynn,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Under Siege- Eye-catching design, dramatic use of color and typography, interesting use of photo illustration, clear page flow, good local photo.

Third Place: Patricia Thompson,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
One Giant leap for mankind- Dramatic photography, color and typography in featured article and supporting art. Good variety. Clean, approachable layout.

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Matthew Burdette,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Milestone- Wonderful combination of dramatic lead art, typography, color and supportive use of skybox space. Good variety in content. Sharp layout with logical page flow. One concern: Leading within headlines is much greater than space between headlines and bylines/articles.

Second Place: Hope Hunt,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Top 5 Contenders- Simple but interesting infographic with candidate photos and eye-catching typography. Good color, content variety and page flow. Helpful but not distracting skybox. Clean design. Second lead headline and subhead need more air.

Third Place: Matthew Burdette,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Ted Williams 100th- Attention-grabbing skybox. Dramatic photo, pleasing and subject-appropriate color, interesting typography in lead feature. Good variety. Insufficient separation between article text and caption. Some additional air at bottom of pull-out quote could be pleasing to the eye.

Specialty Publications

First Place: Gabrielle Mannino, Chris Silva,
and Kristofer Rabasca,
Edible Vineyard, Edgartown, MA
Edible Vineyard spring cover- Photo illustration and colors convey warmth and friendliness. The perfectly placed image depicts a hands-on approach to the harvest. Page-bottom teaser type is understated but confident.

Second Place: Michael Cummo, Kristofer Rabasca,
and Chris Silva,
Vineyard Visitor, Vineyard Haven, MA
Vineyard Visitor cover- Action photo with reader-involving point of view and vivid color. A playful approach in banner type with solid and readable headlines.

Third Place: David Pollard, Lisa Lynn,
VT Ski + Ride, Middlebury, VT
FRONT PAGE - VT SKI + RIDE- Exciting and appropriate action photo, good color. Generally good typography, but "Season Preview" type presents a readability issue.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Jennifer Levesque,
Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

Recruitment in Schools front page- Thought-provoking subject effectively presented with an excellent photo illustration, good color and typography.

Second Place: Mark Burridge and James Kukstis,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Front page celebrating PRIDE month- A weighty issue addressed in package of featured story and sidebars with an informative graphic. Page is missing a strong photo. A lack of variety is offset by pursuit of the subject from different of angles. Use of color in crowded info graphic is overwhelming, but probably appropriate to the subject.

Third Place: The Manchester Cricket,
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

Turning Out- Generally eye-pleasing design, typography, photography. Page would have benefited from stronger presentation of lead photo, avoidance of headline bumping with drop cap.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A SPECIAL SECTION

Combined Newspapers

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Outlook Learning from the past. Innovating for the future. The Western Massachusetts Way- This massive undertaking by The Republican is spectacular in both its design and its breadth and depth of content. It starts on page 1 of the newspaper and continues on inside sections' covers before moving into four additional sections. From start to finish, the design is excellent. Presentations are anchored with headlines to hold the accompanying text and photos. There are captions on every photo. Pullquotes add punch to the pages. The photos range from historic perspectives to current day activities, and all are well-worth viewing. There isn't a single cover or inside page that doesn't offer multiple points of entry. The style and tone are consistent throughout letting readers know they are still on the right track. Congratulations to The Republican team who produced this spot-on piece of quality journalism.

Second Place: Matt Hannon,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Forty Under 40- "40 Under 40" sparkles and not just because the cover design is aglow with golden stars and rays of light. It's because it has taken the time to produce a reader-friendly publication loaded with information about the up-and-coming leaders in its community. It's inviting, with a solid, inviting and consistent approach. Each profile is presented in an easy-to-read format loaded with information. The primary photos capture folks in their work environments. And kudos to the photo staff for rounding them all up.

Third Place: The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

College Football: Season of Transition- There's nothing like a football team with a new quarterback to rally the hometown folks, and the Hartford Courant has rallied its troops to tell the story of the Huskies. It's a fun and inviting section with strong headlines and photos. The design moves you along from article to article with points of interest such as drop caps and boldface emphasis. Its overall look is strong ... perhaps, like a defensive end.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A NICHE PRODUCT

Combined Newspapers

First Place: The Salem News, Salem, MA

Marblehead Home and Style- There's no need for a GPS thanks to Marblehead Home and Style's Christmas Magic guide. An eight-page section filled with a variety of information from parking to getting around to highlights of the many events helps readers navigate the Marblehead Christmas Walk. The remainder of the magazine is graced with appealing photos, inviting headlines and easy to read content. It has the look and spirit of an invitation to sit before a blazing fire and learn more about a charming tradition.

Second Place: Gloucester Daily Times,
Gloucester, MA

Cape Ann North of Boston Life- A dash of history – T.S. Eliot once lived here – combined with a hardy dollop of current features such as the "Recipe Box" are presented in an alluring style bound to draw in readers. Photos – lot and lots of local folks – are displayed in appropriate sizes and intertwine with strong headline displays. And that cover photo – it's a stop-and-stare image – truly stunning. The design and photography team must have had a ball as they worked to produce this issue.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A NICHE PRODUCT, *continued*

Third Place: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Granite- The “A Flair for Fare” centerpiece in Granite reflects the overall content of this striking magazine. The headlines are designed with typefaces that reflect the content of story about a chef who says, “We’re here to make people happy.” The photos give a closeup of this chef as a real person. And the layout echoes that a serious yet enjoyable approach is essential to success. Throughout the issue, strong headlines, loads of local photos, generous use of white space and consistency of design prevail with enjoyable and readable results.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF PRINT NEWSPAPER

Combined Newspapers

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

The Sunday Republican knows how to design a quality newspaper for its readers. Its lively and cohesive design standards offer interesting points of entry for readers. The pages have consistent spacing of elements on every page, leaving enough white space to lead readers from article to article. A mix of headline sizes and dark and light fonts anchors articles and lets readers know the relative weight of each one. Photos are appropriately sized and include captions (thank you ever so much). Pullquotes help break up long legs of type. In short, it’s a winner.

Second Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

The Berkshire Eagle - The Berkshire Eagle packs a lot of news into its publication – a deft and appreciated trick. A shining example is its page 1 index to inside articles and upcoming features. It maintains a consistency in layout throughout with solid headline styles and spacing. Of special note in the Feb. 3 issue is the design of the “Sent Away” package by the Eagle Eye Team. Each section starts with a lively centerpiece that’s sure to draw in the readers.

Third Place: Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

Vineyard Gazette - What a gift the Vineyard Gazette offers to its readers. This steroid-sized broadsheet reflects its 1846 founding and a sense of belonging to both the history and future of the community. Rather than showing its age, it flirts with the charm of island life. It has an even and consistent pace, stories about historic homes and folks and a reefer story to online

features. Photos are run large. Every community column is graced with a sketch of its iconic image. And where else would you read this headline: “Sharks Rock; the Rest Are Just Chum.”

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION SPECIALTY PUBLICATION

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

Edible Vineyard- Edible Vineyard looks good enough to eat. It’s loaded with photos – scene setters, close-ups showing real personalities, group shots that don’t look like “shoot them at dawn” poses, and, of course, the food – fabulous. But the special ingredient is the water color illustrations – yes, that fish does look as if it is jumping from the sea. Overall, it’s a design that pulls all of its components together to make a visual feast for readers.

Second Place: Martha's Vineyard Arts & Idea, Vineyard Haven, MA

Martha's Vineyard Arts & Ideas Magazine- Take a deep breath before opening this magazine, which bills itself as the only glossy arts magazine on Martha’s Vineyard. It’s is breathtaking. Of course, there is the art itself, but the magazine is also loaded with photographs, both historic and current, that lend a sense of awe. The presentation does let the reader breath from time to time, while moving them along through the content. The headlines are of a size and weight that keeps them from over-shadowing the artwork. Overall, a trip through this magazine is like a tour of a multi-faceted art museum.

Third Place: The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Block Island, Close To Home, A World Away- The cover photo of this travel edition is so stunning that readers might well be tempted to pack their bags and make their way east. Vibrant indeed. Inside are scenic images capturing the beauty of the island alongside copy blocks clearly defined with tips and info for an idyllic visit to this idyllic island. It’s hard to put down, and even harder to not flip back to that cover design.

Third Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

Best Place to Work- Honorable Mention:

A graphic on pages 14 and 15 illustrating the perks of places to work earns Best Place to Work in Boston an honorable mention. Helping readers put facts into perspective is always a much-appreciated design feature.

DIGITAL

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The Hartford Circus Fire 75 Years Later- In a field of numerous superb entries in this category, the Hartford Courant's coverage of the Hartford Circus Fire's 75th anniversary still stands head and shoulders above the rest. The meticulous journalism that went into examining the specifics of what happened that day, and the layout of the circus, paired with an interactive graphic that makes that work so accessible, is a model for other news organizations. Combine that with the numerous first-person accounts the Courant's staff assembled, and this is an easy choice.

Second Place: Providence Journal, Providence, RI
Redemption: The fall and rise of Mark Gonsalves-

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Are we prepared for a major hurricane on Cape Cod?-

BEST INFOGRAPHIC ON WEBSITE

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Gregory Bryant, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
What's next for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station?-

Second Place: Andrea Suozzo, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Births and Deaths in Vermont Towns-

Third Place: Tim Reck, Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
2018 Election Results Map-

BEST OVERALL MOBILE PRODUCT

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

First Place: The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT

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

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
Vermont Standard THIS WEEK- Visually stunning, easy to navigate, and lots of info on this site! Unusual design for a newspaper site, but really draws you in! Easy choice for top honors!

Second Place: Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
vineyardgazette.com- Beautiful, informative and so easy to navigate. Well done!

Third Place: Christy King, Erika Brown, The Manchester Cricket, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA
themanchestercricket.com- Love the look and feel of this site – and SO much information!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: MassLive, Springfield, MA
MassLive.com website- This site was the most impressive of all of the entries. Chock full of info, with eye-catching visuals to lead the reader.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT
The Day's website- Excellent site and easy to navigate.

Third Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Best Overall Website- Wonderful! A real service to the readers.

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Digital Storytelling Playbook- Fantastic!

Second Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
The Martha's Vineyard Times website- Beautiful!

BEST PODCAST

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Lindsay Boyle, Carlos Virgen, and Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT
Case Unsolved: Erika Cirioni- Strong production values and a well-told, true crime story drive this Podcast from The Day. The podcast goes beyond the typical one-on-one interviews that seem to drive most newspaper podcasts, instead giving us a compelling narrative with suspense and intrigue. Well done.

BEST PODCAST, *continued*

Second Place: Dustin Luca and Hadley Green, The Salem News, Salem, MA

Halloween in Salem: Managing the Chaos- The Salem News takes a deep dive into what the city is best known for -- Halloween. A variety of voices and excellent archival tape help keep the listener involved as the host offers insight into the history of Haunted Happenings in the city, the challenges the event has faced, and where things stand now.

Third Place: Michael Hamad, Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Capitol Watch podcast series- The Capitol Watch Podcast seems to have a strong, straightforward goal: go deeper into issues covered in the paper with additional interviews and information. It includes good sources, good sound and good topics. There is a lot to learn here from a strong, knowledgeable host.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Staff,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Fatal shark attack on Cape Cod- The Cape Cod Times did a tremendous service to their readers with their fast, comprehensive coverage of a tragic event that the community needed to be aware of immediately.

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Combined Newspapers

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

Stuck in Vermont: Burlington High School's Dance Team Brings the Crowd- This high-energy video really captures the spirit of the school. A joy to watch!

First Place: Peter Huoppi and Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT

New Johnny 5 reunite after 28 years- This entertaining mini-documentary makes nice use of archive video footage and sound. Very well done.

Second Place: Jason Savio, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Sand mandala at Cape Cod Museum of Art- Mesmerizing video. Only wish it was longer!

FEATURE VIDEO

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Kris Radder,

Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT

John Glenn- A stranger-than-fiction tale with a solid local angle and a hilarious headline. Nice use of archive footage, too.

Second Place: Ruby Wallau,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Yours truly, Fran Owens- Great choice to feature Ms. Senior Massachusetts 2007 in this video. An entertaining profile of an experienced entertainer. Two thumbs up.

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

A Queen for the night- This behind-the-scenes look at a drag performer was interesting to watch...but it would have been even better if we saw (just a little bit) more of Bella performing on stage without any voice-over narration.

Weekly Newspapers

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

Stuck in Vermont: Exploring Three Swimming Holes in Lamoille County- This video is great in so many ways. Beautifully shot and very well-produced, Eva Sollberger does an excellent job of narrating and hosting. The aerial and underwater video footage is a bonus.

Second Place: Megan James,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

When the Oxford Punch Needle went viral- A very cool story about a local business that went viral on social media.

Third Place: Megan James,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

The Great Apgar Pumpkin- An interesting topic with a touching backstory. The fast-motion portions of the video were very nicely done.

Third Place: Landry Harlan,

Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

A Night at the Derby Weigh Station- This was a wonderful behind-the-scenes look at a local event that's been a longstanding tradition on the Vineyard.

NEWS VIDEO

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Stuck in Vermont: A Recovery Coach Pays It Forward- This video does a wonderful job of showcasing a charismatic recovery coach who is working on the front lines of addiction. An important story that's very well told...and well-produced....bravo.

Second Place: Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT
Homecoming for the USS Hartford- When members of the military come home after being deployed overseas it's an emotional event, but one that often gets overlooked and overshadowed by other news coverage. The Day did a nice job of covering this particular homecoming, and gave these sailors and their families the recognition they truly deserve.

Third Place: Greg Saulmon, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Here's why an ambulance couldn't find a 3,000-seat stadium- Innovative use of video to illustrate how an address listed inaccurately on an online map can cause problems.

SPORTS VIDEO

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Stuck in Vermont: Lily Stilwell Competes in Gymkhana Ice Time Trials on Malletts Bay- A very polished, well-produced video that tells an inspiring story. A+

Second Place: Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT
So many reasons to love a night at the ballpark- This is a great (and VERY timely) topic for a sports video, and the clip captured a variety of sights and sounds from a minor league ballpark. Nicely done.

Third Place: Kris Radder, Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT
Harris Hill ski jump- This action-packed video was really fun to watch.

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Witnesses describe shark attack in Truro- This shark attack was a big story, and the Cape Cod Times was able to get to the scene quickly and interview several witnesses who were there when it happened. Nice work on this breaking news story.

First Place: Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT
Tempers flare outside of the gubernatorial debate- Emotions ran high during this event, and The Day was in the right place at the right time to capture some intense moments on video. Great work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

FEATURE PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Brad Horrigan, Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Umbrellas- Nice Eye! Seeing this image is half the challenge then you executed the image in the camera! Well done!

Second Place: Bill Shettle, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Those Daring Young Men- Excellent image with the Vet inside and the DC-3 in formation out the window. Well Done!

Third Place: Christine Peterson, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Windy Sisters- Great weather feature. very nice!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Sparky- Excellent image! Well done!

Second Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Weathervane- Very strong image!

Third Place: Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, , MA
Holiday Parade of Lights in Stoughton- Beautiful Image!

FEATURE PHOTO, *continued*

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: **Mark Alan Lovewell,**
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
Rain Reflection- great eye! Very nice feature!

Second Place: **Gabrielle Mannino,**
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Tony the Pony- Well done feature with great expressions

Third Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger,**
The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Brant Point Wreath- Strong image

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: **David Sokol,**
Cape Ann Beacon, Gloucester, MA
Cece Weagle at Stage Fort Park- Snow feature with peak action

Second Place: **Robin Chan,**
Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA
Come here bubble- Good angle to make an interesting image

Third Place: **Ken McGagh,**
Westwood Press, Westwood, MA
Little League - cute photo!

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: **Greg Saulmon,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Westfield Whitewater Races- Excellent image of a white water race. Well done!

Second Place: **Merrily Cassidy,**
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Hospital arraignment- Telling General News image with the suspect cuffed to the bed by his ankle. While the police wait for the nurse to clear the bedding. Tells the story in one image! Well done.

Third Place: **Bill Shettle,**
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Naugatuck Police Promoted- Well done! Great reaction to a life event!

Third Place: **Ashley Green,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
NFL draft pick celebration- So very happy to be a millionaire! Great reaction image!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: **Peter Pereira,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Veterans wall- Excellent spot news

Second Place: **MATHEW PLAMONDON,**
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
PRIDE - Strong spot news image

Third Place: **Paul Bilodeau,**
Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
Snow Fisherman - Spot News art!

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: **Gabrielle Mannino,**
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
First Baby- Very nice image with great expressions

Second Place: **Gabrielle Mannino,**
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Prom!- Great reaction capture

Third Place: **Mark Alan Lovewell,**
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
Help Wanted- Good eye in seeing the image

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: **Glenn C. Silva,**
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, Fairhaven, MA
Polar Plunge- good photo

Second Place: **Karen Wong,**
Duxbury Clipper, Duxbury, MA
THINGS ARE LOOKING UP- Cute

Third Place: **Glenn C. Silva,**
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, Fairhaven, MA
Warren at window before the Rally- Interesting angle

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: **Bill Shettle,**
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Training for a Crisis- Very Strong image! Well done!

Second Place: **Rick Cinclair,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Church demolition- Excellent work!

Third Place: **Bill Shettle,**
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Honoring Sam Beamon- Great angle on a normally straight on photo

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: **Stephanie Zollshan,**
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Rodeo- Great peak action for a news feature from a radio.

Second Place: **Marc Vasconcellos,**
The Enterprise, Brockton,, MA
'Our Family is complete' 37 children are adopted at courthouse event Really cute news feature, well done!

Third Place: **Ken McGagh,**
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Remnants of Hurricane Florence - Good News
fwruyrw.

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: **Lisa Vanderhoop,**
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
Striped Bass Caught- Great Angle on a fishing story image

Second Place: **Albert O. Fischer,**
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
Chilmark Election- Nice moment

Third Place: **Cyndi Wood,**
The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Joy to the World- Very cute image

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: **Liz Graves,**
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Little runner, big grin 9/13 front - Really cute news feature

Second Place: **Eliza Hallabeck,**
The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT
A Fond Farewell To The 2018-19 School Year –
Nice image

Third Place: **David Sokol,**
Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle,
Hamilton-Wenham, MA
Fallen Soldier Battle Cross- Good image

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: **Hoang 'Leon' Nguyen,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Elizabeth Whidden, 94.- Oh this is a classy graduation image with a wonderful expression open the graduate! Nicely executed.

Second Place: **Rick Cinclair,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Parkinson's Boxing Club- Telling image with who, what, where quickly evident. Well done capturing a telling moment.

Third Place: **Steve Lanava,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Coach- great reaction image!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: **Stephanie Zollshan,**
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Fire Chief- Very nice fire scene.

Second Place: **Carol Lollis,**
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Worlds Strongest Gay Man- Fine image.

Third Place: **Peter Pereira,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Graffiti- Interesting feature

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger,**
The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Celebrating April 20- Excellent image!

Second Place: **Johanna S. Billings,**
The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Lillian- Great moment go joy!

*Third Place: Robin Chan,
Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Come play with me- Good capture!*

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

*First Place: Robin Chan,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA
Love at First Sight- Really cute image*

*Second Place: Sarah Hinckley,
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Funny moment flipping cakes 11/1 - Funny image*

*Third Place: Glenn Callahan,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Opal- Nice image*

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

*First Place: Ron Schloerb,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Military Reflections- nice eye! Lovely reflection
image for a striking result! Well done!*

*Second Place: Steve Heaslip,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Bog Frog- I wait each year for the creative
photojournalist's take on the cranberry harvest. So
many waders and so many rakes. But this spectator
really adds to the interest to bring the readers into the
story. Well Done!*

*Third Place: Merrily Cassidy,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Lighthouse supermoon- Super Moon Light House!
Well Done! Great eye and patience as well as a clear
evening. Nicely done!*

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

*First Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Milers Dive In- Great eye to see this image and turn it
into art!*

*Second Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
WHAT A PUNCH- Nice lighting balance. Sell done!*

*Third Place: Gillian Jones,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Reflection - interesting image. Good Eye!*

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Rick Cinclair,
Worcester Living Magazine, Worcester, MA
Summer Star Party- Well done image!*

*Second Place: Tyler Wilkinson-Ray,
VT Ski + Ride, Middlebury, VT
Return of the Backcountry Badass- Well done image
of a foreboding location*

*Third Place: Stuart Garfield,
Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
New TD Garden- Nice headset of a building*

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

*First Place: Nicole Harnishfeger,
The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Tall Ship Lynx 060719 - Very nice image! Well done
and good anticipation*

*Second Place: Lexi Pline,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Lighthouse Fireworks- Very well done image*

*Third Place: Johanna S. Billings,
The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Sundown splendor- Lovely image*

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

*First Place: David Sokol,
Tri-Town Transcript, Topsfield, MA
Rain covered window pane- Excellent! Just excellent
image!*

*Second Place: David Sokol,
Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA
Crow flies in snowstorm- Weather Art! Well done!*

*Third Place: Ken McGagh,
The Winchester Star, Winchester, MA
Tree Lighting- Very strong image!*

PORTRAIT PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

*First Place: Steve Heaslip,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Coast Guard on Watch- Nicely handled with just the
right amount of fill flash to balance the overt all image.
Good composition to tie the image together in one
telling composition!*

Second Place: Merrily Cassidy,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Woman of year- Excellent image! just excellent!

Third Place: Steve Lanava,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Tony Bennett performs- Emotion filled image. Well done!

Third Place: Hoang 'Leon' Nguyen,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Richard Bertocchi pays tribute at 9-11 Memorial- Touching image!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Books- Excellent image! Just - really excellent!

Second Place: Deb Cram,
Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH
Will to Walk- Very strong image!

Third Place: Alyssa Stone,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Haitian-American runs for mayor of Brockton- Very nice image!

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Gabrielle Mannino,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Kate Taylor- Strong environmental portrait

Second Place: Shannon Hicks Will,
The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT
Dolores Meehan & Bella -- Bella visiting - Very nice image!

Third Place: Gabrielle Mannino,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Ted Box- Creative image!

SPORTS PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Bill Shettle,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Rams 1-1 in SCC Finals- really strong field hockey action! Faces, the ball and struggle in one image! Very well done

Second Place: Bill Shettle,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Raiders' Run Ends in Semis- Strong Basketball action! Great faces as they struggle for the ball!

Third Place: Brad Horrigan,
Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Track- Pure art in a sports image!

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

First Place: Paul Bilodeau,
Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
Red Sox Win!- We Win! Excellent action but poorly cropped. The open space to the right of the image is wasted space that takes away from the main purpose of the image. BUT you won anyway. Next time do it right!

Second Place: Greg Derr,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Battle for the ball- excellent game action. faces, expressions and struggle all in one image

Third Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Massasoit coach honored- Emotion always takes the day in any sports event. well done!

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: David Sokol,
Cape Ann Beacon, Gloucester, MA
Slide to home plate- Strong home plate action

Second Place: David Sokol,
Tri-Town Transcript, Topsfield, MA
Harrison fights for the ball- Just past peak but still a strong image.

Third Place: Robin Chan,
Pembroke Mariner & Reporter, Pembroke, MA
Victory- Excellent celebration image!

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Daily Newspapers circulation 20,000+

First Place: Jonathan Shugarts,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Fire Destroys 'Everything'- Strong image with the fire roaring as the man is being evacuated at right. Without the wheelchair - just another fire image. Well done!

SPOT NEWS PHOTO, *continued*

*Second Place: Steve Lanava,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Do Not Move- Very strong news image!*

*Third Place: Kris Craig,
Providence Journal, Providence, RI
Storm damage- Art Period! nicely done!*

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

*First Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Rescue- good rescue image*

*Second Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Man pulls out bat in road rage incident- Strong news image at the moment!*

*Third Place: Art Illman,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
snow crash- Strong news image of dazed victim.*

Weekly Newspapers

*First Place: David Sokol,
Wakefield Observer, Wakefield, MA
A six-alarm fire erupted at First Baptist Church in Wakefield on Tuesday evening, Oct. 23- Excellent fire image*

*Second Place: David Sokol,
The Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA
Family Dog - Strong victim image*

*Third Place: Gabrielle Mannino,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Farm fire- Good angle*

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 20,000

*First Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Coffee Anyone?- Excellent image! Very imaginative and well executed!*

*Second Place: Matthew Burdette,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Bush - Nice illustration*

*Third Place: Matthew Burdette,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Patriots- Well done*

PHOTO SERIES

Daily Newspapers

*First Place: Deb Cram,
Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH
Will to Walk- Nicely done set of images to show the process along with life events*

*Second Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Only female firefighter in New Bedford- Good Set of images.*

*Third Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Coming Home- Strong set of images especially holding the flag.*

Weekly Newspapers

*First Place: Robin Chan,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA
Levitate Music Festival- Well done*

*Second Place: Nicole Harnishfeger,
The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Saltmarsh Senior Center- Strong images*

*Third Place: Erika Brown, The Manchester Cricket,
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA
An Ancient Burial Ground Rededication in Essex- good set of images*

PHOTO STORY

Daily Newspapers

*First Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Heroic rescue by Brockton firefighters- Truly excellent coverage of this event! Well Done!*

*Second Place: Merrily Cassidy,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Monomoy bird bands- Excellent set of images to tell the story*

*Third Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Veterans transition house- Strong set of images!*

Specialty Publications

First Place: Pat Ryan, Mike Dawsy,
VT Ski + Ride, Middlebury, VT

C = 10: Carinthia's 10th Anniversary- Excellent set of images

Second Place: Christine Peterson,
Worcester Living Magazine, Worcester, MA
Pirate Invasion- Well covered in images

Third Place: Gabrielle Mannino,
Edible Vineyard, Edgartown, MA
Martha's Vineyard Mycological- Interesting images

Weekly Newspapers circulation 6,000+

First Place: James Buck,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
In Pictures: Monday Night Hockey at Gordon H. Paquette Ice Arena- Strong set of images to tell the story

Second Place: Gabrielle Mannino,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Cuttyhunk- Good images to illustrate a hard story with images

Third Place: Nicole Harnishfeger,
The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA
GRS buoy Removal - Well done

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 6,000

First Place: Paul Rogers,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Agricultural Goddess- Excellent coverage

Second Place: Paul Rogers,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Light and Shadow- strong art of images

Third Place: Robin Chan,
Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA
empowerHER- Strong images

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER

Combined Newspapers

First Place: Kristen Braley, Hannah Normandeau,
Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
The Stowe Report- Great newsletter, clean & crisp, easy to read. Highlighting local sports, local life, local politics all very well done with beautiful crisp pictures to accompany stories.

Second Place: Noah Hoffenberg,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Outstanding Newsletter: The Beat- User friendly, great photos, intro suggests the local stories. Having the weather is a plus!

Third Place: Erica Moser, The Day, New London, CT
Bizz Buzz- Very user friendly, clean & crisp. Like the way Erica Moser goes from local to around the web, nice job!

BEST SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM PROJECT

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Leah Willingham, Geoff Forester,
Concord Monitor, Concord, NH
Finding Hope, Concord Monitor- This is a brilliant project. Brilliant. Here's why:

1. Actionable. The information given on all five days provided audiences with information that could change their lives -- from data to telephone numbers to pull quotes that show the issue is real.
2. Captivating -- the images are respectful yet rich with raw emotion. It's one thing for a writer to describe; it's another for a photographer to capture raw emotion that tells the story
3. Connectable -- Just about every story started with a name or a story about a person. It would be so easy to write a series filled with jargon and numbers. But the reporter gained trust with numerous people and was able to show, not just tell. It's cliché, but a story is only as good as the notebook filled with notes. The reporter definitely put in time and passion and emotion into this project. I can tell because this project isn't simply about mental health/suicide; it's about the people who live it on a daily basis.

BEST SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM PROJECT,

continued

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

Beyond the Stigma- The reporters/writers took a very issue-oriented topic and put human faces on it. Great job turning what could be a dense news series into a human interest series that captivates an audience through the lives of people living these stories, and ultimately showing solutions/changes to fighting an epidemic.

**Third Place: Christopher Peak,
New Haven Independent, New Haven, CT**

Teacher Solves Schools' Big Math Problem- As the comments below the story point out, math is a very difficult subject to teach and learn. The reporter does a great job of showing how and why this teacher's work matters -- she's changing young people's minds about math. The story is nicely structured with understandable themes, including the students' perspectives. And this is a story that anyone can relate to because we've all learned math at one point (to some degree), and really relatable to helping parents understand what's happening in the classrooms.

EXCELLENCE IN NEWSROOM COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Combined Newspapers

**First Place: Grant Welker, Brad Kane,
Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA**

City of Immigrants- There's long been a symbiotic relationship between research companies and news organizations. This project, though, extends that relationship through actual collaboration of storytelling.

There is a clear reason why this topic is of importance to the local community -- the data show the impacts via science and that anecdotal stories help the audience connect to the topic by introducing us to the faces and names of the people who are making impacts on the community.

This collaboration shows how a smaller news organization can produce high quality journalism that competes with larger news organizations.

Kudos to all involved in this collaboration project.

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

CuriousCT- I've long been told that if I want to attract an audience, include "real" people in my stories. Your news organization has gone beyond that. If we are to produce information that impacts an audience, we should ask the audience what it wants to know. I genuinely believe there is no shame in crowdsourcing story ideas -- especially at a time when our audiences can go this or that way for information. If we as news organizations want to remain open, we must be more relevant -- we stay relevant by publishing news that our audiences not only need but want.

Kudos to you for taking the grant and applying it to producing information that matters to your community. Now, if we could get larger news organizations to realize it's okay to ask their audiences what's newsworthy.

**Third Place: Staff, Granite State News Collaborative,
New Hampshire**

Granite State News Collaborative- Keep doing what you're doing because you're heading in the right direction with collaboration for the right reasons.

Through your collaboration, your editor's personal story showed an extended audience what it's like to live with a mental health issue -- and as we all know, mental health issues are not limited to just one person or one community.

Collaboration in journalism these days is not simply limited to co-reporting. As news organizations continue to face economic struggles, in order to do journalism well, we have to start thinking outside the box as to how to maximize our resources -- and as you detail in great length -- your news organization is doing just that by sharing resources -- impactful news -- with other news outlets. That's why most of us get in the business -- we don't do it for the money, we do it to make a difference.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Newport Life Magazine**, Newport, RI
Newport Life - Great lifestyle magazine with high quality content, design and advertising. I enjoyed the design of the "Best of" Newport County, great use of space. Love the "shop" pages.

Second Place: **The Daily News of Newburyport**, Newburyport, MA

Newburyport Magazine - Beautifully designed covers, especially the winter magic cover. The pull out map and feature of Marblehead Christmas walk was excellent! Great content and fun read.

Third Place: **Hartford Courant**, Hartford, CT

Hartford Magazine - Fun lifestyle content that was enjoyable to read. the "Best of" section was great I like the Best of "Local People" category. Great design.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Susie Middleton, Jane McTeigue**,
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA

Island Guide- I loved this magazine! Very inviting and enjoyable to read. I felt that this publication provided a great guide to the Island...so much so I want to visit! High quality content and beautiful design.

Second Place: **VT Ski + Ride**, Middlebury, VT

VT SKI + RIDE: Best Niche Publication- Very impressed that this publication has grown from a 12-page news sheet to a beautiful magazine. Fantastic niche publication for skiers and relevant advertisers. I love the quality content and lifestyle vibe.

Third Place: **Greg Popa, Stowe Reporter**, Stowe, VT

Stowe Guide & Magazine- Gorgeous publication with great advertising support! Great use of the ski and snowboard advertiser coupons. I enjoyed all of the content but really like the departments content.

DIGITAL STRATEGY EXCELLENCE

Combined Newspapers

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette**, Edgartown, MA

Second Place: **Providence Journal**, Providence, RI
'The Beast is Dead'-

Third Place: **Concord Monitor**, Concord, NH

INNOVATOR AWARD

Combined Newspapers

First Place: **Terrence Williams, Gina De Santis, Staff**,
The Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Radically Rural-

Second Place: **Susie Middleton**,
Vineyard Gazette, Edgartown, MA
Cook the Vineyard-

Third Place: **Jenn Smith**,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Berkshire County Student Journalism Summit-

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspapers

Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant
Hartford, CT



Weekly Newspapers

Christopher Ross
Addison County Independent
Middlebury, VT

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspapers

Erin Tiernan

The Patriot Ledger
Quincy, MA



Weekly Newspapers

Rich Saltzberger

The Martha's Vineyard Times
Vineyard Haven, MA



PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspapers

Peter Pereirs

The Standard-Times
New Bedford, MA



Weekly Newspapers

David Sokol

GateHouse Media New England

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Specialty Publications

First Place:



VT Ski + Ride, Middlebury, VT

This amazing publication is loaded with compelling stories, excellent writing and wonderful photography. The print quality is in a league of it's own. The website is graphically pleasing and easy to use. Businesses must be very happy with the high end treatment their ads receive.

Second Place:

Providence Business News,

Providence, RI

Excellent writing, fine graphics and a wide range of interesting stories make this a publication worthy of general excellence honors. The giving guide is a great bonus.

Third Place:

Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

This publication continues to shine as a source for reliable, well written business news both in print and online.

Weekly Newspapers
circulation less than 6,000

First Place:

Mount
Desert **Islander**

Mount Desert Islander,
Bar Harbor, ME

A complete newspaper with a broad range of interesting community stories. Lots of local bylines, strong editorial page and range of commentary and a flair for features and enterprise reporting.

Second Place:

Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

A strong community paper with a variety of local news and reporting on local community and hard news with the addition of a variety of quality photographs and good quality printing.

Third Place:

Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

A newspaper with an impressive variety of local news and photos. It features a strong editorial page, attention to news of community events, local sports and social activities. This is a newspaper committed to serve the local community with the best it can do.

Weekly Newspapers
circulation 6,000+

First Place:

SEVEN DAYS

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Seven Days is a testament to the power of a well-conceived, well executed community publication. It's strengths include enterprise reporting, community coverage, interesting feature stories and a robust A&E package. The presentation and editing are first rate. Bravo!

Second Place:

The Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket, MA

What distinguishes this paper is its drive to set the local agenda. The paper is a news center, informed by deep local knowledge and powered by thorough enterprise reporting and outstanding editorials. Whether the issue is sea rise, heartfully illustrated and told from multiple viewpoints or calling out the local utility cheating out in buying power lines. They fight for readers of all social status with great reporting.

Third Place:

The Martha's Vineyard Times,
Vineyard Haven, MA

The MV Times dominates the local news and advertising spot. A reader gains a thorough knowledge of local issues shaped by good editorials. A&E is outstanding and entertaining. Special kudos for a good calendar enhanced by superior layout and design as is the whole paper.

Daily Newspapers
circulation less than 20,000

First Place:



The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

The Berkshire Eagle continues to add to its reputation of resetting the quality of local daily newspapers. Its dedication to a strong package of local news, editorial commentary and opinion and community activities helps bring back what were the standards of a good local daily newspaper. Clearly the way the newspaper is managed is significant to its success given not only the impressive work of the news staff but the willingness to dedicate reporters/photographers to special assignments on important issues that must require a dedication to time, effort and expense that is hard to find in many newspaper of today.

Second Place:

Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

Here is yet another New England newspaper that exhibits the quality traits of good reporting and hard work to bring the best they can to the readers and communities they serve. The wide range of community reporting on all topics of events and activities is enhanced by the paper's additional dedication to special topics of serious issues that impact readers lives. Special topics research takes time and dedication in newsrooms that are challenged in this day and age. But the Monitor's news staff continues to deliver impressive and important in depth reporting as it holds itself to a standard of strong daily reporting and quality writing.

Third Place:

Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

This is among those newspapers in New England that is keeping up with bringing quality community news reporting to its readers. In addition to the daily news presentation, the Sunday Eagle Tribune offers a substantial package of news - hard news and social and entertainment news. This effort can assure subscribers they are getting the best they can from the daily paper that serves the readers and the communities in which they live. In addition the daily and Sunday sports section is one of the best in reporting on local sports in the region, particularly those of the local schools. Few daily newspapers do such an impressive job of focusing on local sports.

Daily Newspapers
circulation 20,000+

First Place:



Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The times was our choice because they reach for excellence while being solid in many categories. Fatal Shark Attack was gripping to read and staff got eye witnesses and bystander photos. The midweek day of choice had a strong editorial that could have been a difference maker on Falmouth Affordable Housing. Local election & town meeting coverage were solid. Feature section lively. All around top notch!

Second Place:

Providence Journal, Providence, RI

Very impressed with the suicide survivor story, especially the multiple modes of story telling and weaving together many stories. Great enterprise! We like the "local first" approach and strong statehouse coverage, especially on the Evergreen contract bill, holding the governor accountable to her campaign promises. Sports was heavily dominated by pro sports- not much for a parent, etc. for local athletes.

Third Place:

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

The Rep-Am staff does an impressive job with local news. From high school sports and honor rolls to police logs and social news, they work hard to reflect their market and provide unique content. Features are well-written and presented. All in all, the Rep-Am does a solid job.

*Congratulations
to all of
the award winners!*



NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION DISTINGUISHED JUDGES PANEL

Joseph Bergantino – Executive Director, Managing editor and Co-Founder of New England Center of Investigative Reporting

Robert Bertsche – Media Attorney and Partner, Prince Lobel Tye

Karen Bordeleau – Emerson College; President, New England First Amendment Coalition; Former Executive Editor, Providence Journal

Wayne Braverman – Editor, Boston Homes

Sherry Chisenhall – Executive Editor, Charlotte (NC) Observer

Catherine Clabby – Sr. environmental reporter, North Carolina Health News

Sean Corcoran – Sr. Managing Editor for News, WGBH News, Boston

Oreste D'Arconte - Former Publisher, The Sun Chronicle

Darell Davis - VP Creative Services, Metro Creative Graphics

Matt DeRienzo - VP News and Digital Content, Hearst CT Media Group

Dave Goren - Executive Director, National Sports Media Association

Charles Goodrich - Consultant; former publisher, GateHouse Media NE

Jeff Haden – Contributing Editor, Inc. Magazine; Speaker; Author

Tom Heslin - Former Senior VP and Executive Editor, The Providence Journal

Robert Holt III - Former AME Director of Photography and Director of Operations and Technology, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; former Director of Publishing Industry Marketing, Scitex

Bill Kole - New England News Editor, Associated Press

Stephen Kurkjian – Former Reporter/Editor, Boston Globe Media

Leah Lamson – Director, New England High School Journalism Collaborative; Former editor, Telegram & Gazette

Len Levin - Former Copy Desk Chief, Providence Journal

Linda Lotridge Levin - Dept. of Journalism, University of Rhode Island

Matt Mansfield - Partner, MG Strategy + Design, Washington, DC

Jean McDonald - University of Illinois; former sports writer, sports editor, and director of electronic publishing at the Champaign (IL) News-Gazette

Lincoln McKie, Jr. – Emerson College; former publisher, Journal Transcript Newspapers, former executive editor, Lowell Sun, former managing editor, Telegram & Gazette

Paul Miller – Former Executive Editor, Keene (NH) Sentinel

Alan Mittelstaedt – Associate Professor, University of Southern California Annenberg

Mark Murphy – Director, John H. Chafee Center for International Business, Bryant University

Carolyn Callison Murray - Former editor and VP The Sun News, Myrtle Beach, SC

J. Keith Moyer - Senior Fellow, University of Minnesota, former president and publisher Minneapolis Star-Tribune

Tony Norman – Columnist, Pittsburg (PA) Post-Gazette

Jeff Peterson – Former Publisher, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Hanna Raskin – Food Editor and Chief Critic, The Post and Courier, Charleston, SC

Christopher Ritchie - Penn State University; former features editor at the Delaware State News, rewrite desk chief at the Middlesex News, and editor positions at the Wilkes- Barre (PA) Times-Leader

George Rodrigue – Editor and General Manager, The Plain Dealer

Bob Ryan - Former VP Knight-Ridder Digital and San Jose Mercury News

Bob Ryan – Sports Columnist, Boston Globe Media

Bill Sarno - Associate Editor, Hartford Guardian, former editor of the Bristol Press and Lakeville Journal

Laura Shaw - Publisher, Shaw Media, Crystal Lake, IL

Justin Silverman – Executive Director, NE First Amendment Coalition

James Smith - Former editor at the Record-Journal, Connecticut Post, New Britain Herald, The Day, The News-Times; sports editor and city editor at the Hartford Courant

Chris Snider – Professor, Drake University

Jon Solomon – Editorial Director, Aspen Institute Sports & Society Program

Jeff South - Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University

Suzette Standring – Syndicated Columnist

George Sylvie - Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin

Emily Sweeney – Reporter, Boston Globe

John Tabor – Former Publisher, Seacoast Media

Rebecca Tallent - University of Idaho; former ombudsman for the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review

John Voket - Associate Editor, The Newtown Bee, Director of Public Affairs, Cox Media Group, CT

Susan Walker - Vice President/General Manager, Herald Newspapers Inc., Chicago, IL

Maggie Walter – Professor, University of Missouri

Brent Walth – University of Oregon, School of Journalism & Communication

Karen Weintraub – Adjunct Professor, Boston University

Jon Wells – Professor, AfroAmerican studies, University of Michigan

Maryjane Wilkerson – Former Editor, Boston Globe

Stephen Wolgast - Kansas State University; former news design editor at The New York Times

Carl Zimmerman – Columnist, New York Times