

INSIDE: COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES COMMENTS

Presented April 30, 2022

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS JOURNALISM



NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION





CONGRATULATIONS NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

This year's competition drew nearly 2,000 entries that were published during the contest year August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. 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 six categories:

- ◆ Daily Newspapers with circulation up to 15,000
- ◆ Daily Newspapers with circulation more than 15,000
- ◆ Specialty and Niche Publications
- ◆ Weekly Newspapers with circulation up to 5,000
- ◆ Weekly Newspapers with circulation more than 5,000
- ◆ News Services and Online News Sites

CONTENTS

NEWS REPORTING

Arts and Entertainment Reporting
Business/Economic Reporting
Best Coverage of Coronavirus
Coverage of Protests or Rallies
Crime and Courts Reporting
Education Reporting
Environmental Reporting
General News Story
Government Reporting
Health Reporting
History Reporting
Human Interest Feature Story
Investigative Reporting
Local Election Coverage
Local Personality Profile
Obituaries
Presidential Election Coverage
Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage
Reporting on Religious Issues
Science/Technology Reporting
Social Issues Feature Story
Sports Feature Story
Sports Story
Spot News Story
Transportation Reporting
Climate Change and Weather Coverage
Audience/Community Involvement
Headline Writing
Right-to-Know

PAGES AND SECTIONS

Arts and Entertainment Section
Business Page or Section
Food Page or Section

Editorial/Commentary Page
Front Page
Living Page or Section
Special Section or Supplement
Sports Section
Special Sports Section

EDITORIAL

Editorial Writing
Commentary
Editorial Cartoon

COLUMNS

Humor Columnist
Political Columnist
Serious Columnist
Sports Columnist

DESIGN

Illustration/Infographics
Front Page
Overall Design and Presentation

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

Multimedia Coverage
Website Interactivity and Engagement
Best Podcast
Best Infographic on Website
Best Overall Website
Best Overall Mobile Product
Best use of Social Media in Breaking News
News Video
Entertainment Video
Feature Video

Sports Video
Spot News Video

PHOTOGRAPHY

Feature Photo
News Feature Photo
General News Photo
Pandemic Photo
Personality Photo
Photo Illustration
Photo Series
Photo Story
Pictorial Photo
Portrait Photo
Sports Action Photo
Sports Feature Photo
Spot News Photo

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Outstanding Newsletter
Best Niche Publication (Editorial)
Best Solutions Journalism Project
Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration
Innovator Award
Digital Strategy Excellence
Rookie of The Year
Reporter of The Year
Photojournalist of The Year

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: Alisha Saint-Ciel,

The Enterprise, Brockton

Blinded by society Cape Verdean artist in Brockton achieves his dream

An immediately engaging, can't stop reading profile of an intriguing - decidedly contemporary artist and deep dive analysis of his roots, inspirations and creative spirit.

2nd Place: Megan Fernandes,

Fosters Daily Democrat

Kevin Eastman reminisces about time in Dover, birth of 'Ninja Turtles'

A fantastic and compelling read that localizes and reflects on the humble beginnings of a pop cultural phenomenon and the individuals who envisioned it, successfully developed a global brand, and ended up spawning generation-spanning franchise with grit, talent, networking, and humility - without sacrificing their artistic innocence and sense of humor. The writer captured a spectacular level of detail through their research and interviews.

3rd Place: Steve Pfarrer,

Daily Hampshire Gazette

With a little help from his friends

Delightful reporting on a personality and talent who is at an age very challenging to capture and relate to a broad audience. Regardless, this writer does an admirable job of scripting a feature that leaves the reader informed, inspired to seek out the artist, and very much looking forward to what lies in store for him in the future.

Daily 2

1st Place: Richard Duckett,

Telegram & Gazette

'What the Nazis Stole from Richard Neumann (and the search to get it back)' opening at WAM

This arts & culture feature could be the foundation of a screenplay - the writer effectively weaves together multiple story lines skating to but not past,, the edge of complexity keeping the reader hooked to the final sentence and likely driving many to access this exhibit.

2nd Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll,

Cape Cod Times

Our Story: The Wampanoag Tribe and the Pilgrims Who Followed

A very important feature chronicling the historic shift between the museum's original 'racist' historical exhibit and its more honest and historically accurate first-person perspective. Not just an important promotion for the museum, but an important story about lessons learned and one institution's successful attempt to illustrate the truth. Fantastic storytelling that should have driven both increased attention and attendance!

3rd Place: Ray Kelly, The Republican

East Longmeadow animator Sue Nichols Maciorowski to be honored posthumously for work on Disney

Wonderfully readable tribute that delves into the comprehensive back story of this dedicated hometown talent who connected with her faith and community before her untimely passing.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTING, (continued)**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place: Michael Jonas,
CommonWealth Magazine
Fitchburg pinning revival hopes on arts and
culture**

From the exceptional lede through this deep dive analysis on tapping arts and culture as a primary means of economic development - the writer delivers an engaging and highly informative feature that provides a great service to the community as well as all Commonwealth Magazine readers.

**2nd Place: Cate Hewitt,
The Connecticut Examiner
The 'Secular Religion' of Jennifer Grotz**
Hewitt delivers a deliciously brief interview packed with insights about the subject and how she is inspired to craft her work - along with some of the best advice (and insight) for those who might otherwise be put off, or genuinely afraid of exploring poetry.

**3rd Place: Peter Chianca, Boston.com
The 10 best Boston references on the new
Dropkick Murphys album**
An extremely home grown reference fest, as entertaining for Dropkick Murphys fans as it is for any resident or Boston lover who is familiar with any of the sites or situations laced into these songs.

Specialty

**1st Place: Victor Infante,
Worcester Magazine
The Great WoMag Disco Challenge!**
One of the most ambitious pieces of entertainment reporting ever - with a concept that is pure genius and presumably generated by the author. Before you ever get to sampling all 50+ artists involved, readers got an extremely detailed insight into how musicians experienced or interpreted one of the more historic genres of modern music.

**2nd Place (tie): Victor Infante,
Worcester Magazine
In defense of television: Worcester shares
its pandemic-driven viewing habits**
An extremely well-written 'page scroller' of a feature, incorporating countless insights not only regarding who's watching what on TV, but also offering many insights on what TV is, and what it means. I dare say every reader of this excellent feature saw themselves in at least one of this reporter's subjects.

**2nd Place (tie): Richard Duckett,
Worcester Magazine
Looking for signs**
A wonderful piece on the development and roll-out of this public art project, laced with an interesting array of sources and details about how these works arrived at the right time to perk-up and involve the entire community.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING, *(continued)*

3rd Place: **Kris Olson, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Lawyer, wife reopen theater complex bought just before pandemic hit**

This would be a great read in any newspaper or magazine, but its emergence from something of a trade publication makes it an even better find. The appropriateness and ties between the subject and subject matter make this feature even more entertaining and award worthy.

Weekly

1st Place: **Dan Bolles, Seven Days Banjo Great Gordon Stone Celebrated With Posthumous Album**

A good feature can lead the reader to learn something, to become more appreciative of a subject or genre — and in rare occasions open a door to a whole new level of appreciation of a particular art form or subject they never knew, understood, or heard of before. This writer accomplishes all three in this informative, easy reading tribute that probably helped expose the subject to new audiences in his own home state and neighborhood.

2nd Place: **Saskia Maxwell Keller, Provincetown Independent “Painting in the Key of Blue, à la Judith Rothschild”**

One of the most unique examples of arts reporting, not only providing engaging, readable insight about a unique creative, but developing and contributing a hands-on component that can help readers better understand and appreciate that subject’s genius.

3rd Place: **Kate Cough, The Ellsworth American Flute-maker**

A wonderful piece detailing how music and an instrument changed and gave true meaning and purpose to a local personality. The rapport between the writer and subject is evident in the narrative, delivering a well-balanced and entertaining read.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Combined

1st Place: **Saskia Maxwell Keller, Provincetown Independent Provincetown Independent Arts & Minds section, 7-22-21, Saskia Maxwell Keller**
The Provincetown Independent created an outstanding section for its vibrant arts community.

2nd Place: **The Berkshire Eagle Berkshire Landscapes, July 17-18, 2021**
Navigating the arts and entertainment “landscape” in Western Massachusetts is a joy with this section. Interesting editorial throughout, and the pink artwork immediately grabs the reader!

3rd Place: **Letitia Baldwin, The Ellsworth American. Arts & Leisure**
Jennifer Skiff’s Love Letter was beautiful and heartbreaking. The section layout was well done and visually appealing.

BEST COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS

Daily 1

1st Place: Staff, The Day, New London The Lost Year

Consisting of both an October 2020 special section and a March 2021 anniversary series, The Day's coronavirus coverage follows in the best traditions of community journalism. The former, an engaging and visually attractive special section, covers all the tried & true pandemic bases – chronicling the impact on nursing homes and assisted living facilities, the regional entertainment industry, high school athletics and graduation ceremonies, workplace and labor market, etc. But it also includes some creative thinking – stories on hiking and other outdoor pastimes, random acts of goodwill, excerpts from editorials published in recent months and capsules on some of those who lost their lives to the virus. Plenty of advertising support enhances the presentation, with ad layouts as compelling as the editorial design. Titled “The Lost Year,” The Day's week-long series commenced on Sunday March 7 with a striking front-page infographic consisting of one-sentence testimonials to every COVID-19 victim from New London County. In that same issue, The Day reflects on the prior year in editorials, sports and feature stories. A praise-worthy effort.

2nd Place: The Patriot Ledger One year of COVID-19: What we've learned; doctors reflect

Serving as a launchpad for The Patriot Ledger's five-part series on the COVID-19 pandemic, staff writer Joe Defazio's opening five paragraphs probably represent the best, and certainly most succinct,

summation of a frightening and oft-confusing year which changed our lives forever. Whereas other entries in this category used the "series" label to brand what more properly was a loose collection of COVID-related stories published over time, The Patriot Ledger shows what can be done with meticulous planning and by keeping everyone's eyes firmly on the ball. Still, with multiple moving parts, a project like this relies on structure, organization and institutional gravity to keep things together. Its covers much of the same ground as other entries – the pandemic's impact on education, municipal budgets, mental health, family dynamics, etc. – but the Ledger's team of staff writers are skilled enough to explore more complex and nuanced issues, some of a technical nature, without losing their audience in the weeds. Smart, intelligent writing elevates our understanding of the subject matter rather than burying readers in an avalanche of statistics, so even though these five installments are dense and loaded with detail, unhurried and deliberate pacing keeps things on track. Sources speak of their COVID experiences with authority, insight and occasional poignancy, emphasizing the human dimension of the ongoing crisis.

3rd Place (tie): Hadley Barndollar and Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald The Last Responder

Many media outlets profiled funeral directors as part of their ongoing coverage of the COVID-19 crisis. However, most barely scratch the surface of this complex and multi-layered topic, instead focusing on restrictions that led to scaled-back, or even virtual, bereavement or funeral services.

BEST COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS, (continued)

But in his lengthy profile of Maine funeral director Jeffrey Pelkey, Gannett staff writer Hadley Barndollar goes deeper to provide a behind-the-scenes look at a critical industry. Demonstrating a keen eye for detail, Barndollar touches all the bases in spinning a narrative that breathes life into the business of death. Even without the added dimension of COVID-19 this would be a compelling read, but the author's ability to explain procedures rarely seen by the public, while also chronicling near-heroic efforts to preserve dignity amidst appalling circumstances, is exemplary. Barndollar neither minces words, nor wastes them. He is perfectly comfortable letting the details – and quotes – speak for themselves. Also speaking loudly, from a visual point of view, are Deb Cram's nuanced photos, displayed with sensitivity and tact as the story unwinds through multiple jumps. The jumps, while a distraction, can't diminish the overall impact of this powerful package.

3rd Place (tie): Olivia Belanger and Paul Cuno-Booth, The Keene Sentinel For many in Monadnock Region, India's COVID crisis hits close to home

In a category with multiple outlets pursuing similar angles on COVID-related topics, The Keene Sentinel manages to dig up an entirely fresh take by localizing the pandemic's devastating effects on the India/Nepal region. Stronger editing would have helped here, as composition is clunky at times. But give staff writers Paul Cuno-Booth and Olivia Belanger credit for unearthing a range of local sources with ties to the subcontinent – from physicians to convenience store owners to college

students. All speak with sincerity and genuine concern for those back home. Nicely done.

Daily 2

1st Place: Staff, Republican-American Coverage of the Coronavirus

There is much to admire in The Waterbury Republican's diverse and far-reaching coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Culled from a 10-month period beginning in August 2020, the varied elements included in this entry showcase community journalism at its finest – compelling, consistent, comprehensive and contextual. Thoughtful in both planning and execution, the Republican never loses focus in detailing the profound and evolving ways that COVID has affected our lives. Highlights include Tracey O'Shaughnessy's Aug. 30 column which – in 23 exquisite paragraphs – evokes the misery, bravery and absurdity of the pandemic; the seven-part "People of the Pandemic" series by Steve Barlow which forces readers to contemplate human triumphs and tragedies occurring on more or less a daily basis; and the top-notch lead to Michael Puffer's Aug. 2 news feature about area teachers demanding classroom safety measures. Like many outlets, the Republican also published a 1-year retrospective in early March 2021 titled "Life with COVID," then followed it up a week later with an even more ambitious take on vaccinations. These and other subsequent "Focus" packages from the Sunday paper are remarkable in their own right, each delivering a multi-faceted take on a different COVID-related topic. Taken in its entirety, the Republican's efforts stand head and shoulders above the competition, regardless of circulation class.

BEST COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS, (continued)

2nd Place: Cynthia McCormick, Cape Cod Times
COVID hits Cape Cod

This entry is distinctive in that it showcases ongoing work from a single staffer, reporter Cynthia McCormick, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While not part of a series or special project, these nine stories reflect McCormick's journalistic versatility and ability to write with nuance and sophistication. Although many outlets published an obligatory high school prom story, for example, McCormick elevates her narrative by interviewing a prom-goer in search for a color coordinated dress/mask ensemble. Other stories emphasize more provocative COVID angles. The most haunting of these chronicles the overdose death of a Cape Cod teen two weeks after a district court judge rejected her parents' request for in-patient treatment – his ruling was made on the basis of court filings at a time pandemic safety restrictions prevented parents from making their case in person. Another original storyline uses USPS data to detail an influx of at-home workers, newly untethered from their respective workplaces, migrating to new homes and virtual careers on the Cape. McCormick also does solid work helping readers highly technical efforts to sequence the viral genomes of emerging variants.

3rd Place: Francesca Paris, The Berkshire Eagle
Health care workers receive first vaccinations with fear, hope, relief

While Troy Dobrowolski was one of many community journalists assigned to chronicle the restaurant industry's well-documented

struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic, his effort is more perceptive than most – thanks largely to the insights of restaurateurs operating in and around the Pittsfield area. In particular, he deserves credit for showing readers how sometimes-overlapping, other-times inconsistent and ever-changing local and state health policies have affected these small business owners and their employees. Not the most stylish writer, Dobrowolski seems more than content to let his quotes do the talking. In this case, that's a good thing because they speak volumes – especially when sources opine on delicate matters like requiring establishments to enforce contentious policies involving masks, scaled-back seating capacity and limits on dining time. Editors likewise deserve credit for a clever headline.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff, The Connecticut Mirror
How Connecticut battled the coronavirus
Entry consists of six different stories showcasing excellent long-form journalism characterized by strong graphics and relentless use of statistical research to tell the tales. Story on nursing home staffing challenges documents factors which contribute to erosion among front-line health care workers, while a piece on the early days of Connecticut's vaccine rollout shows how minority populations were often last in line for available shots (quite an irony in light of subsequent resistance to vaccinations, often among those same populations). News feature on COVID-19 deaths in the state prison system was exceptional, and heartbreaking – showing how most inmates died alone, with family members notified only when a final decision

BEST COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS, (continued)

was needed to terminate life support. Writing could have been tighter at times, but extended narratives are digestible, linear and rarely wander. Quotes are never gratuitous, and well positioned to help provide context for readers.

2nd Place: Staff, VTDigger.org Coronavirus in Vermont

On a strictly professional level, the 16 individual stories comprising VTDigger’s coronavirus coverage reflect a deep-seated and abiding commitment to good journalism. The digital news outlet’s more significant contribution, however, is simpler: helping improve the quality of life in northern Vermont – a laudable goal made even more pressing by the COVID-19 pandemic. There’s nothing particular new or groundbreaking here, with staff writers tackling familiar angles on changes to rural policing, remote employment trends, navigating holes in the state unemployment safety net and challenges experienced at the state’s lone testing lab – all from a Green Mountain perspective. What is notable, however, is the consistency of writing and presentation over an extended period. Rather than bludgeoning its audience with long-form treatments, the VTDigger staff manages to find a series of home-grown sources who help readers make sense of complex, multi-layered issues. Kudos, also, to photographer Glenn Russell, whose images of Vermonters – some hardscrabble and others not – reflect perfectly the grim resignation evoked by the lengthy pandemic. As an unemployed homebuilder from Newport Center, Vt. observes: “When you lose your income, you

lose everything. All your things, everything that you have done in your life you'll lose, and eventually you'll lose it all.”

3rd Place (tie): Roberta Baker, Granite State News Collaborative Nursing home social life during COVID

Plenty of news outlets reported on conditions in area nursing homes and assisted living facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suffice it to say, few had staff writers like Roberta Baker – who deserves recognition on the strength of her writing alone. Baker’s lead on the “Things get wacky” story is a delight, capturing the zany essence of costumed staffers at the N.H. Veterans Home who, by all appearances, will stop at nothing to elicit a smile from dispirited elders. Baker skillfully intersperses a brisk narrative with quotes from both residents and staff. Her upbeat – dare we say, fun – approach stands in contrast to numerous other entries which focused on the grim monotony in such facilities, with residents isolated, family members unable to visit in person and staff morale at a low ebb. Thank you, Roberta, for helping us remember the power of positive thinking – even in a pandemic.

3rd Place (tie): Heather Morrison, MassLive Mass. private schools see uptick in interest following plans for public schools to go remote

Lengthy, but solid treatment which traces the migration of Bay State families from public to private schools – ostensibly to escape remote- or hybrid-learning models implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although staff writer Heather Morrison focuses primarily on diocesan schools in Boston, Springfield and

BEST COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS, (continued)

Worcester, she explores other classroom alternatives as well. Despite its daunting length, Morrison’s narrative keeps things moving, introducing readers to parents struggling with difficult – and expensive – choices in a rapidly-shifting educational landscape. Her sourcing is exhaustive, but always balanced and even-handed, with the only agenda a desire by parents to improve on a bad situation.

Specialty

1st Place: Pat Murphy, Kris Olson, and Barry Bridges, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly coronavirus coverage

Although Mass. Lawyers Weekly serves a narrow readership of legal professionals, the 16 stories which encompass its COVID coverage entry certainly reinforce one attorney’s observation that the COVID-19 pandemic “upended the practice of law more dramatically than any other development since the billable hour was introduced 100 years ago.” By rigorously avoiding legalese in favor of style and language familiar to a general audience, staff writers Pat Murphy, Kris Olson and Barry Bridges earn their stripes by deftly exploring the legal implications of pandemic policy and practices – usually with far-reaching consequences for the rest of us. Some of these, like Olson’s Oct. 8 story detailing efforts by landlords to develop a constitutional challenge to the Massachusetts eviction moratorium, are fascinating solely on their merits. (Ditto for a related piece by Murphy that focused on more successful challenges by commercial tenants, especially restaurants, to avoid

paying rents while state restrictions on indoor dining were in effect.) Other highlights tackle the thorny issue of mandatory workplace vaccinations, new rules to fast-track bankruptcy filings, the fairness of conducting suppression hearings and other proceedings via Zoom and more mundane matters like the return of jury trials to the federal courthouse. Very impressive and deserving of top honors.

2nd Place: Staff, Providence Business News PBN coronavirus coverage

Working with a pared-down staff owing to declining revenues during the COVID-19 pandemic, Providence Business Journal still manages to deliver a series of feature-length packages that document the pandemic’s effects on the city’s retail, real estate, health care, hospitality and tourism sectors, among others. Although such topics might be a dry read in less capable hands, the staff at PBJ strives for just the right amount of leavening. For example, an October feature on virtual employment foresees the gradual emergence of permanent hybrid workplaces, while also exploring the trickle-down effects on a Pawtucket dog-boarding, grooming and daycare business. Turning its attention to nursing homes – a thematic lodestar for news outlets during the pandemic – PBJ steers clear of the usual tropes and instead shows how increased PPE and supply costs, combined with declining occupancy rates, have siphoned away profits and sapped employee morale. The likely upshot is an industry shakeout with state government channeling funds to home-care options. Weighty stuff well handled.

BEST COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS, *(continued)*

3rd Place: **Staff, Boston Business Journal**
Uncertain returns

Consisting of a single installment of “Recover Boston,” a series of special reports looking at the local economy and workplaces, Boston Business Journal expertly focuses on the cascading effects of pandemic-related disruptions on business relationships of long standing, gradually eroding the interdependence critical to a healthy economy. Like other publications, BBJ packages stories and sidebars to document the looming consequences facing different financial sectors – including higher education, a key cog to Boston’s economy. More sobering is reporting on the pandemic’s financial effects on health care, especially hospitals, which typically generate the bulk of their profits through elective procedures which were curbed during the COVID surges.

Weekly

1st Place: **Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days**
Mother Load: A Year in the Life of Three Single Moms in Vermont

Few pieces of feature writing have captured the anxiety, the downs and the occasional ups as well as this piece.

2nd Place: **Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days**
After a Year in Hotels, Homeless Vermonters Prepare to Live in Tents and Cars

3rd Place: **Courtney Lamdin, Chelsea Edgar, Sasha Goldstein, Seven Days**
Fleeing COVID-19, Newcomers Find Temporary — or Permanent — Refuge in Vermont

BEST INFOGRAPHIC ON WEBSITE

Daily 2

1st Place: **Francesca Paris, The Berkshire Eagle**
The time we saved in the Berkshires (and are still saving) with remote work
Good information here, packaged well, easy to read.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION

Daily

1st Place: **Marcia Passos and Douglas Anderson, The Keene Sentinel**
Monadnock Table
The Keene Sentinel has targeted a niche audience with an outstanding publication. All local artwork and editorial celebrating local and rural culture.

2nd Place: **Michelle Johnson and Curtis Panlilio, The Republican**
A Ballooning Life The Nine Lives of J. Michael Wallace
Captivating and visually stunning!

Specialty

1st Place: **Lisa Lynn, David Pollard, and Angelo Lynn, VT Ski & Ride**
Vermont Ski + Ride Magazine
Excellent niche publication – exceptional photography and editorial content.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION,
(continued)

2nd Place (tie): N-Magazine

N, Nantucket Magazine

Wonderful publication celebrating life in Nantucket – the photography of the island is remarkable!

2nd Place (tie): Lisa Lynn, Shawn Braley, and Angelo Lynn, Vermont Sports Vermont Sports.

This publication knows its audience and serves it well! This is a must read for athletes living in, or visiting, Vermont.

*3rd Place: Mainebiz
4 editions of excellence*

Every aspect of local, regional and statewide business is covered in Mainebiz. Engaging editorial content, well written profiles and good infographics.

Weekly 1

*1st Place: Greg Popa, Stowe Reporter
Stowe magazine*

Phenomenal publication! There is nothing canned in this magazine – it’s all local. Beautiful design, and full of interesting editorial – this is a must read for visitors.

*2nd Place (tie): Stowe Reporter
Stowe Weddings / Green Mountain
Weddings*

Wonderful resource displaying the beauty and charm of the area for weddings. Fantastic promotion for local vendors and couples alike.

*2nd Place (tie): The Inquirer and Mirror
Nantucket Today*

Island life displayed in a beautiful publication. Well done!

*3rd Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times
M.V. Bluedot Living (At Home on Earth)*

Though this publication is still in its infancy, it’s already extraordinary. Beautiful, clean design, and full of much needed information. Congratulations!

Weekly 2

*1st Place: The Mountain Times
Covid Guides*

Kudos to The Mountain Times for producing this much-needed guide to educate the public! The design is attractive (even fun) and the information is relevant and presented clearly.

*2nd Place: Seven Days
Staytripper*

We loved this “staycation” publication! Wonderful profiles and resources presented in a lively design.

*3rd Place: Vineyard Gazette
The Vine*

What a treat this publication is for islanders and visitors alike!

BEST OVERALL MOBILE PRODUCT

Combined

1st Place: The Day, New London

The Day's mobile site

This clean design of this site makes it easy to navigate.

2nd Place: MassLive

Best Mobile Product

Clear, clean menus to access sections.

3rd Place: MV Bluedot Living

MV Bluedot Living mobile website

Clean consistent design, easy to navigate.

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Daily

1st Place: The Day, New London

theday.com

2nd Place: The Berkshire Eagle

berkshireeagle.com

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Boston.com

boston.com

2nd Place: MassLive

masslive.com

Specialty

1st Place: Providence Business News

PBN website

2nd Place: MV Bluedot Living

MV Bluedot Living

Weekly 1

1st Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times

The MVTimes website

2nd Place: The Vermont Standard

Thevermontstandard.com

3rd Place: Mount Desert Islander

Mount Desert Islander

Weekly 2

1st Place: Graham Smith, Vineyard Gazette

vineyardgazette.com

2nd Place: Seven Days

Sevendays.com

BEST PODCAST

Combined

1st Place: Peter Huoppi, Taylor Hartz, Sten

Spinella, The Day, New London

Looking for the Todt Family

This intriguing podcast about the murder of a Connecticut family is the clear winner.

Congratulations to The Day!

2nd Place: Vineyard Gazette

Shed: Conversations about race

Effective podcast discussing race with honest engaging conversations.

3rd Place: Mainebiz

The Day That Changed Everything

Interesting concept, and really well done!

BEST SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM PROJECT

Daily

1st Place: Jack Rooney, Meg McIntyre, The Keene Sentinel

Pandemic Parenting

During an unprecedented time when nobody knew what to do, the Keene Sentinel offered much needed insight and guidance to parents.

2nd Place: Michael Cousineau, New Hampshire Union Leader

What's Working

Focusing on “What’s Working” is an intriguing project that looks at a variety of workforce issues and potential solutions. Offering insight on “what’s working” in other communities, this reporting is a true service to the community.

3rd Place: Paul Cuno-Booth, The Keene Sentinel

Better Judgment

Fascinating series on restorative justice program. Well researched and well sourced.

News Service / Online

1st Place: Douglas Hook, MassLive

Court of Hope

Captivating series on diversion programs offering alternative solutions to the criminal justice system.

2nd Place: Granite State News Collaborative

Remote Learning Progress Report

Compelling report on how school systems responded to student needs during the pandemic, offering potential improvements.

3rd Place: Granite State News Collaborative and Partners, Restorative Justice Project

This project about diversion and restorative justice programs in Vermont offers insight on current and potential alternatives to traditional criminal justice.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Mike Dougherty, VTDigger.org Vermont's Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout

VTDigger quickly and effectively used all their social media channels to inform their readers of the state's vaccine schedule.

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Combined

1st Place: The Ellsworth American.

Overview

This robust Overview section is a tremendous service to the readers and the business community, full of valuable information. Designed to be saved and referred to throughout the year, it's also appealing to advertisers.

2nd Place: The Berkshire Eagle Berkshire Business Insider and Careers, April 3, 2021: Getting Back to Business

A compelling section that reviews the effects of the pandemic on the area as well as economic expectations as the pandemic subsides. Beautiful layout.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: Charles Winokoor,

The Herald News

SUCCESS FOR THE CITY

Intriguing package describes how a local business owner went from refugee to successful entrepreneur, and how his business impacts the local community.

2nd Place: Joe Wojtas,

The Day, New London

Local seafood rushed to markets near and far

3rd Place: Caleb Symons,

The Keene Sentinel

Former Koffee Kup employees say paychecks issued, then rescinded

Daily 2

1st Place: Michael Cousineau,

New Hampshire Union Leader

What's Working

Michael Cousineau's series on "what's working" is excellent. It offers thorough reporting and engaging content to engage the community in potential solutions.

2nd Place (tie): Tony Dobrowolski,

The Berkshire Eagle

Pandemic sends building material costs soaring, keeps contractors guessing

2nd Place (tie): Michael Puffer,

Republican-American

The Fourth Estate's future

3rd Place: Nicole Shih, Telegram & Gazette
A FRESH START

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Christopher Gavin, Boston.com

What does a future of remote work look like for Massachusetts?

Gavin provides a compelling look at potential impacts on Massachusetts workforce with the expanded remote availability.

2nd Place: Mark Pazniokas,

The Connecticut Mirror

The problem of problem gambling

3rd Place (tie): Cate Hewitt,

The Connecticut Examiner

**Vincent Marks Gains in Norwich
Redevelopment**

3rd Place (tie): Roberta Baker,

Granite State News Collaborative

How to find New Hampshire's real estate bargains

Weekly 1

1st Place: Ryan Spencer,

The Mashpee Enterprise

Shellfisherman's Blues

Cape Cod oyster industry hit hard by covid lockdown. Excellent micro and macro coverage of this topic. Multiple sources. Very informative and clearly presented

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

(continued)

2nd Place: Avalon Styles-Ashley,
The Other Paper

SheFly smashes the pants patriarchy

This story is a gem. Fantastic tale of a startup business with a generous helping of moxie, social awareness, humor and humanity. Story could have benefitted with a few more financial details. But the topic, the subjects and the breezy writing style are winners.

3rd Place: Christine Legere,
Provincetown Independent

The Affordable Housing Challenge

Good detail on the financial hurdles that limit the number of developers interested in building affordable housing on the Outer Cape. The series lacks a narrative arc or the point of view of residents trying to find affordable housing in Provincetown.

Weekly 2

1st Place (tie): Maia Coleman,
Vineyard Gazette

Summer Rental Market

Perfect season-opener story from the Vineyard Gazette that informs the locals what to expect in terms of summer crowds for 2021. Rich in data detail, alive with substantive quotes from rental, real estate and ferry officials, this story paints a picture of a tourist area about to have a robust recovery from Co=OID-plagues 2020. Sure-footed writing paired with flawless editing. A real winning combination.

1st Place (tie): Noah Asimow,
Maia Coleman, Vineyard Gazette
Real Estate/Construction Boom

Another gem from the Vineyard Gazette staff. Great quotes, good local examples, and broader trends of vacation destinations becoming hot spots for "secondary primary homes" for wealthy urban dwellers. The series of stories covers different aspects of the white-hot Vineyard real estate market, from sales to renovations, to super-sizing residential properties. All contributed to eye-popping increases in average home sales.

1st Place (tie): Noah Asimow,
Aaron Wilson, and Maia Coleman,
Vineyard Gazette

Heart of Main Streets

This series on how Main Street businesses navigated the challenges of retail sales in the time of COVID is a perfect companion to the other two Vineyard Gazette entries in this business category. This series goes to the heart of what makes local journalism so essential to the welfare of the communities it serves. The Gazette staff has a well-honed sense of place. The business owners' quotes in this series are frank and unvarnished. Excellent, comprehensive and beautifully crafted local news coverage from this outstanding publication. I am grouping all three of the Vineyard Gazette entries into a collective 1st place prize. All three stories are directly linked by the impact on real estate and local businesses by COVID.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

(continued)

2nd Place: **Derek Brouwer, Seven Days**
Flight Path: BTV's Beta Technologies Is on the Cusp of a Breakthrough for Electric Aviation

Top shelf reporting on an emerging Vermont startup Beta Technologies. The company hopes to build a better electric drone that can transport people or cargo for hundreds of miles between charges. Well written and thorough reporting.

3rd Place: **Lauren Clem, Valley Breeze**
Selling the farm

Wonderful tale of a Rhode Island farming family that is calling it quits after three generations on the land. Rich data detail on how this story has played out in Rhode island and throughout New England. Great quotes woven into a well-told tale.

CLIMATE CHANGE OR WEATHER REPORTING

Daily

1st Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times**
Winds of Change

Doug Fraser's "Winds of Change" wins for this in depth piece about the environmental and political impacts from off shore energy plans.

2nd Place: **Hadley Barndollar, The Patriot Ledger**
'By design or neglect': Flood, climate hazards threaten MA's redlined neighborhoods

3rd Place: **Felix Carroll and Greta Jochem, The Berkshire Eagle**
Farmers dealing with 'emergency' as near-record totals keep fields drenched

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: **Jan Ellen Spiegel, The Connecticut Mirror**
Climate change in Connecticut

Fascinating series on how climate change affects everything –bugs, drought, flooding – and the role politics plays.

2nd Place: **Jackson Cote, MassLive**
Why are we not talking about the drought?

3rd Place: **Brendan Crowley, The Connecticut Examiner**
A Will But Not a Way for Lamont's Transportation and Climate Initiative

Weekly

1st Place: **Kevin McCallum and Ken Picard, Seven Days**

Trickle to Torrent: The Climate Crisis Brings Both Deluges and Droughts to Vermont

Seven Days presents a fascinating a look at the effects of climate change on Vermont – from flooding to droughts. McCallum and Picard's reporting on the aging water systems and potential for indoor farming is top notch.

2nd Place: **Nancy Lavin, Providence Business News**
Surge Mentality: New warning sounded on Providence's widespread flood risks

3rd Place: **Paul Benson, Provincetown Independent**
"Before the Deluge: Plans for Commercial Street"

COMBATING MISINFORMATION AND RESTORING TRUST

Combined

1st Place: Record-Journal

Record-Journal - Providing Trusted COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Latino Communities

The effort and impact of this project are inspiring and impressive. A community with traditionally low trust in news was given a real public service by the newsroom — at a time when trusting information was an actual matter of life or death. Very well done.

2nd Place: Peter Huoppi, Karen Florin, The Day, New London
The Day's trust efforts

The Day's ongoing commitment to explaining their values and processes is impressive. These entries display a real personal touch, using columns and a podcast to humanize the news. Very well done.

3rd Place: Paula Routly, Seven Days
Notes from publisher Paula Routly

Having a regular habit of talking directly to your audience is a great way to build trust, and these columns do an especially nice job of communicating the newsroom's mission and philosophy.

COMMENTARY

Combined

1st Place: Mitchell Chapman, The Berkshire Eagle

Addressing America's ugly duality

Mitchell Chapman's thoughtful writing takes a deeper dive on the criticism of America's Founding Fathers and their shortcomings on race.

2nd Place: Ian Diamondstone, The Commons

'I understood why she felt the way she did, and I knew no one would ever change her'

Ian Diamondstone eloquently introduces readers to the long-time owner of a local lodge.

3rd Place: Felix Carroll, The Berkshire Eagle
The day I met Donald Trump

Felix Carroll takes the readers along on his "weird experience" meeting Donald trump.

COMMUNITY/AUDIENCE INVOLVEMENT

Combined

1st Place: The Day, New London
Pizza Madness Bracket

Fun and effective audience engagement!

2nd Place: Emily Turner and Zipporah Osei, Boston.com
"Readers Weigh In"

3rd Place: The Harvard Press
Feature: In this time of pandemic, what have you learned?

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES PHOTO

Daily

*1st Place: Stephanie Zollshan,
The Berkshire Eagle*
A wave of concern blankets homeless
Well done

*2nd Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton*
**Dual Rally: Counterprotesters crash Legion
Field Spring FREE Rally**
Good image

3rd Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times
Extinction Rebellion
nice

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Glenn Russell, VTDigger.org
Police protest
Great expressions

2nd Place: Glenn Russell, VTDigger.org
Covid unemployed
Nice

*3rd Place: Yehyun Kim,
The Connecticut Mirror*
Stuck in the hospital

Weekly

*1st Place: Gary Higgins,
Boston Business Journal*
Street ministry in New Haven
Nice

2nd Place: David Sokol, Somerville Journal
Zoom School
Interesting

*3rd Place: Mark Alan Lovewell,
Vineyard Gazette*
Bikers navigate unexpected water
Nice image

COVERAGE OF PROTESTS OR RALLIES

Daily

*1st Place: Taylor Hartz,
The Day, New London*
**How a New London woman found her
voice as an activist**

This story takes first place because it offers a unique perspective from the other entries that offers insights that educate the reader. Too often protesters are painted as stereotypes. In this instance we learn of a woman's journey from sitting on the sidelines to leading protests with hundreds of people and willing to put her personal safety at risk. Much protest reporting merely describes events without attempting to explore the personal motivations of the participants. This article is the exception.

*2nd Place: Susannah Sudborough,
Taunton Daily Gazette*
**CLASH ON THE GREEN Taunton BLM and
pro-police groups face off**

This story stands out from the others because of its effort to engage with the participants from both sides and report their points of view so that readers gain a better understanding of their perspectives and motivations. Frequently, protest reporting takes a 10,000-foot view, focusing only on the crowd-size, the chants and the speeches. This article breaks from that mold and offers a sense the reporter was truly curious about the event beyond the pageantry.

COVERAGE OF PROTESTS OR RALLIES *(continued)*

3rd Place: Kerri Tallman,

The Standard-Times

NBPS paraprofessionals seek higher wages

This article reminds us that protests go beyond issues we've become accustomed to the past couple of years. This series deserves credit because it examines a topic - education paraprofessional compensation - that few people know about and therefore increases community awareness of an important issue.

Weekly

1st Place: Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days

Fault Lines Over Trump, Racism and Justice Divide the Town of Johnson

This entry takes first place because it does the most thorough and skillful job of meeting the category's criteria of showing the effects political/social protests on a community - in this case, tearing it apart. It also excels by bringing in a multitude of voices and perspectives that reveal the many nuances of the community's divide. Well-crafted, empathetic and even-handed writing.

2nd Place: Nancy Lavin,

Providence Business News

Protests put businesses in a tough spot

This article is unique in this category because it's the only one to explore how the protests for racial justice affected local businesses by heightening fears of an unsafe downtown. There is far too little of this kind of reporting that explores the unintended consequences of well-meaning civil unrest. Important too is that the article also pointed out how the fears created by

the protests were augmented by the pandemic. A lesson that these demonstrations do not happen in a vacuum.

3rd Place: Robert Cocuzzo, N-Magazine
Petitioning Justice

This article adeptly explored how the death of George Floyd rekindled smoldering racial frustrations in a town proud of its veneer of inclusiveness. It separated itself from the other entries because it smartly wove historical context with contemporary conflict and raised issues that should make everyone in town a little uneasy.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: Julie Manganis, The Salem News
Where's Jonathan

The winner in this category examines complicated case of Jonathan Jutras to show how the current system denies justice for everyone involved. This journalist approaches this story with a thoroughness and sensitivity that, in the end, lets the power of the facts shine through.

2nd Place: Kyle Stucker,
Burlington Free Press
Stuck in limbo

3rd Place: The Herald News
Coverage of the trial of former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia II

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

(continued)

Daily 2

1st Place: Stephanie Barry, The Republican
Do You Think I Killed Him

A haunting tale of how a determined police detective did all he could to reveal the truth about the five-decades-old murder of a 13-year-old boy. The journalist skillfully shifts the story through time and employ the chilling dialogue between the detective and the defrocked priest at the center of the investigation.

2nd Place: Cynthia McCormick,
Cape Cod Times
Tatiana overdose

3rd Place: Brad Petrishen,
Telegram & Gazette
T&G lawsuit for public records access

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Kelan Lyons,
The Connecticut Mirror
Cash bail in the COVID era

In many ways, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed a strained courts system to the breaking point. This story shows the personal and human costs, raising serious questions about the possibility for justice while pointing to the need for potential reforms.

2nd Place: Anna Elizabeth,
The Connecticut Examiner
A Year Without Jury Trials

3rd Place: Granite State News
Collaborative
Restorative Justice Project

Weekly

1st Place: Colin Flanders, Seven Days
Case Dismissed? Questions Persist About
Police Investigation Into Ralph Jean-
Marie's Disappearance

This story exemplifies the importance of accountability journalism as it puts a harsh light on local police for the failures to thoroughly investigate a local man's disappearance. The journalist moves beyond the official story from police to point to unexplored paths — and then delivers the evidence-driven story in a way that cannot be ignored.

2nd Place: Lauren Clem, Valley Breeze
In Woonsocket, threat of gun violence hits
close to home

3rd Place: Lauren Clem, Valley Breeze
Family demanding answers in Logee Street
murder case

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Combined

1st Place: A. Crock (Adam Graham),
Provincetown Independent
“Lobster Man Roll”

A humorous and effective take on a big news event both in the area and worldwide.

2nd Place: Tim Newcomb, Seven Days
Trump cuts Vermont's vaccine allotment
Simple artwork makes the point most effectively.

EDITORIAL WRITING

Combined

*1st Place: George Brennan,
The Martha's Vineyard Times
Editorials*

When this newspaper takes an editorial stand, it uses sharp, emphatic language and pulls no punches.

*2nd Place: Gregory Stroud,
The Connecticut Examiner
Three Editorials*

Timely and blunt. I like that the writer isn't afraid to identify himself.

*3rd Place: Staff, The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Eagle, Editorial Writing, April 16,
March 19, 2021, Oct. 17, 2020*

The editorial castigating the police department is longer than the paper's other submissions, but was gripping and factual. The others, though shorter, made their points clearly.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Combined

*1st Place: Jeff Potter, editor, The Commons
'Insurrection'*

Laid-back makeup helps make a powerful statement about the events of January 6.

*2nd Place: Staff, The Republican
Traitors*

The commentary is encompassed in a page dominated by pictures of those the paper deemed traitors for their roles on and about January 6.

*3rd Place: Angelo Lynn and staff,
Addison County Independent
Editorial pages Feb. 25, 2021*

A pleasing winter image is the focal point of this attractive opinion page.

EDUCATION REPORTING

Daily 1

*1st Place: Lindsay Tice, Sun Journal
Education under siege: A Sun Journal
investigation*

Outstanding use of data to connect the dots and tell an important story.

*2nd Place: Kerri Tallman,
The Standard-Times
'It's unacceptable, there's no excuse' New
Bedford Public Schools misreports 16
school-based arrests*

Great use of reporting, data journalism and really clear explanation of how things work.

*3rd Place: Susannah Sudborough,
Taunton Daily Gazette
Hope for students struggling with dyslexia
The challenges some Taunton students
face, and ...*

Great storytelling on a very important subject. The writing really keeps the reader's attention throughout the article.

Daily 2

*1st Place: Jessica Hill, Cape Cod Times
Racial disparity in school discipline*

Outstanding reporting on an important issue, all backed up with graphics, data and strong photography.

EDUCATION REPORTING

(continued)

2nd Place: Greta Jochem and Francesca Paris, The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire public schools lost hundreds of students during the pandemic.

Packed with great reporting, all the information a parent would need and supported with graphics. Really great work.

3rd Place: Michael Gagne, Record-Journal
The state of local schools amid pandemic

Great series that covered topics important to the community in an easy to understand way.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place (tie): Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, The Connecticut Mirror

School construction and segregation

This is a tie with the NH news collaborative series on Covid learning. The Mirror takes an in-depth look at an issue that is so important to education equity. Looking at the history -- and present -- of segregated schools in CT is powerful and should serve as a wakeup call for CT leaders. These stories are well told and packed with helpful information and graphics.

1st Place (tie): GSNC Reporters, Granite State News Collaborative
Remote Learning Progress Report

This project is a tour de force, covering nearly every remote learning/hybrid learning challenge you can think of. The fact that it is a collaboration makes it even better at this moment in the news business. Love the solutions focus. One pet peeve, there could be more students and parents

in some of the stories and fewer usual suspects. Still outstanding work!

2nd Place: Philip Marcelo, Steven Senne and Rodrique Ngowi, The Associated Press For Native Americans, Harvard and other colleges fall short

This story takes a look at an often-overlooked population in reporting -- Native Americans -- and raises important questions about the role of colleges in their social mobility. As the story says, during the pandemic, Native students experienced the sharpest college enrollment decline of any racial or ethnic group, as economic hardships, health disparities and the challenges of remote learning in isolated tribal communities forced many students to quit school. Kudos for elevating these challenges to enhance readers' understanding.

Weekly 1

1st Place: Ross Cristantiello, Joy Hosford and Mike Gaffney, Lexington Minuteman
Pandemic effects linger at technical schools

Really good team effort on reporting. Lots of different voices elevated. Good detail about what makes CTE a special challenge for students. Well reported.

2nd Place: Matthew Nadler, Trevor Hass, Duxbury Clipper
DHS football team antisemitism controversy

Good job sticking with a story that broke on the beat and finding angles to write about. The pieces do not shy away from exposing the concerning developments on the team, but also do a good job of showing the rift in the community, without sensationalizing.

EDUCATION REPORTING

(continued)

3rd Place: Dean Geddes, The Inquirer and Mirror
Balancing Act: Teachers Juggle In-Class and Remote Learning

This story is well written and does a good job of explaining the challenges that teachers face in hybrid learning. I would have liked to see some comments from students on the impact of the teachers' juggling.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Alison Novak, Courtney Lamdin, Seven Days
PCBs at Burlington High School

Such a great package of stories for readers. They put the students at the center of the issue and do a great job of amplifying student concerns. While the subject matter can be technical, the writers took great pains to make the information clear and understandable. An impressive effort on a huge community story.

2nd Place: Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days
Norwich University's President Decamps to COVID-19 Front Line — a Dorm Room

This is such a great profile! You really get to know the president and what made him tick during a challenging time for the college. Great details, like the Post Malone song make this a fun and delightful read.

3rd Place: Olga Peters, The Commons
Educating hand-in-hand with uncertainty
Story is well written with lots of interesting details. The only criticism is the lack of student voices.

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Combined

1st Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days
Winter Dipping With Katharine Montstream and the Red Hot Chilly Dippers

Red Hot Chili Dippers - beautifully shot and captures the intensity of this community of dippers. The love affair with the lake fueling Monstream's painting shone through. The paint effects in the video were an added bonus!

2nd Place: Peter Huoppi, Rick Koster, The Day, New London
The secret to finding a parking spot in Mystic

Fun, quirky video about finding parking in Mystic.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: Paul Leighton, The Salem News
Still Dirty

Impressive effort by the news organization to hold authorities accountable for ensuring the continued protection of residents harmed by an environmental problem. Information led to action by the government.

2nd Place: Susannah Sudborough, Taunton Daily Gazette
Scientists weigh in on Taunton gasification

Solid effort by the news organization to independently ask important questions about a proposal that has potential health and environmental impact on community.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

(continued)

*3rd Place: John Ruddy,
The Day, New London*

The Promise of Plum Island

Solid effort to explain the potential impact of a proposal that could shape a major feature of the community.

Daily 2

1st Place: Felix Carroll, The Berkshire Eagle
Ice Glen's famous old-growth hemlocks are dying

In highly competitive category, this entry stood out for its compelling writing and excellent marriage with the accompanying photography. Even if you are not naturally a "tree-hugger" the reader will end up caring deeply about the fate of these historic trees.

2nd Place: Patrick Johnson, The Republican
Whose Mountain is it

Solid job of untangling the legal and bureaucratic complexities of this project which has the potential of a major impact on the community, its residents and its wildlife.

*3rd Place: Jeanette Deforge,
The Republican*
'Grand mystery': Is Chicopee site eyed for an industrial park actually a conservation area?

Good effort to untangle some of the complexities surrounding the fate of an integral element of the community.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Bruce Mohl,

CommonWealth Magazine

Somerset struggles amid slow rollout of offshore wind

A terrific story about unintended consequences — a wind-power company bought property contaminated by a coal plant while promising a green future, only to turn to unpopular activities such as trucking in scrap metal and road salt after the Trump administration put a hold on offshore wind. The reporter does an excellent job of explaining how this complex issue played out, with town officials and activists at loggerheads over environmental concerns versus unrealized tax revenues.

2nd Place: Julia Werth,

The Connecticut Examiner

As State and Federal Efforts Wane, Phragmites Control is Left to Private Efforts

A well-told story on how efforts to control phragmites, an invasive weed found in waterways, have receded in recent years, leading to their re-emergence. Especially striking was a comment from a state official that there are no longer enough employees to do the work, leading to private landowners having to foot the bill.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

(continued)

3rd Place: Brendan Crowley,
The Connecticut Examiner
**North Stonington Solar Project Attempts
Balance of Environmental Priorities**

Yet another tale of unexpected consequences, as a community that welcomed a solar-energy company is now contending with the reality that the company wants to clear-cut 44 acres of forest land in order to erect solar panels. The facts and disputes are laid out clearly and understandably, with a minimum of jargon.

Weekly 1

1st Place: John Stanton,
The Inquirer and Mirror
Health of the Harnor

An outstanding example of reporting that combines routine coverage of officialdom with enterprise. Nantucket's economy and attractiveness depends on the health of its waters, and black algae fed by fertilizer is killing eelgrass and harming scallop fishermen. In a follow-up, the reporter pushes beyond that, examining what proposals have been offered to solve the problem and what chances there are for action to be taken. The story is expertly told, opening with the observations of a scallop fisherman and never losing sight of people who are affected by the pollution.

2nd Place: Rich Harbert,
Old Colony Memorial
Two years walking the Bay Circuit Trail

As much a travel story as it is an environmental report, the reporter nevertheless entertainingly introduces us to

a great natural resource: the Bay Circuit Trail, a 230-mile network of hiking paths that ring Boston through its suburbs. We learn the history of the trail, how it's been managed and the stories of those who have made use of it. The reporter, his wife and another couple hiked the entire trail, which adds considerable interest to the article. A plethora of photos helps give the reader a sense of what the trail is like.

3rd Place: Christine Legere,
Provincetown Independent
**"United on Shutting Pilgrim, Advocates
Differ on Nuclear Waste"**

In covering the dilemma of what to do with radioactive waste generated by the Pilgrim nuclear power plant, the reporter smartly moves the issue of environmental justice to the center. She opens with a Navajo activist from New Mexico who opposes plans to move the waste out of Plymouth and into his backyard. At the same time, though, she gives ample space to the views of a local official who argues that the environmental justice issue is an "oversimplification" given that Plymouth is a densely populated area ill-suited to such storage.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Kevin McCallum,
Seven Days
**Beekeepers Worry Pesticide-Treated Seeds
Contribute to Hive Deaths**

This is one of two stories reported by Seven Days on the threat posed to bees in Vermont by pesticides known as neonicotinoids. The stories feature solid reporting on a vitally important issue that threatens the food chain — as well as steps that officials are considering in order to deal with the issue. Both stories are also well-written, pulling the reader along and

explaining complicated issues in understandable terms.

1st Place: Margaret Grayson, Seven Days

The Vermont Wild Bee Survey Finds and Identifies Hundreds of Species

Rather than standing as a separate entry, this is really part of a package. The two stories should be given a single first-place award.

2nd Place: Julia Wells, Noah Asimow and Maia Coleman, Vineyard Gazette
Sheriff's Meadow Trail Clearing

After learning that more than 25 miles of trail had been improperly cut in the state forest, the Vineyard Gazette went to work, reporting detailed follow-ups that culminated with an agreement to undo the damage that had been done. Although much of the coverage involved reporting on official actions, the paper pushed beyond that, obtaining public documents, interviewing officials and keeping a spotlight on the issue. Without the Gazette's efforts, it's easy to imagine this falling through the cracks.

3rd Place: Kevin McCallum
Seven Days

Lake Memphremagog's Natural Beauty Belies Worries About Contaminants and Fish With Tumors

Deeply reported and well-written in a narrative style that keeps the reader engaged. The issue is complex: Is water pollution coming from Vermont contaminating drinking water in Quebec? It is also ambiguous — despite some rather harrowing pieces of evidence, including tumors on fish, the level of contaminants appears to fall below anything that would pose a danger to humans.

EVENT SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly

1st Place: The Harvard Press
Town Meeting Warrant in Plain English

This section is an invaluable resource and service for the community, helping them easily navigate through Town Meeting.

2nd Place: The Ellsworth American.
Tournament Edition

Creative solution to publishing a special section about a beloved tournament, during a year without a tournament.

EXCELLENCE IN NEWSROOM COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Daily

1st Place: The Day, New London
Spirit of the City

Successful collaboration between the newspaper and local university gave journalism students the opportunity to work with professional journalists and have their work published. The added resources and relationships built make this a winning partnership.

News Service and Online

1st Place: Granite State News Collaborative
Granite State News Collaborative Partners Covid Coverage

The Granite State News Collaborative easily takes the win for their amazing partnership during Covid. Engaging newspapers, radio, freelancers and journalism students gave the partnership the ability to produce stories that covered every region in the state. Sharing information and innovative ideas with residents and businesses was a huge success -- and kudos for providing news in both English and Spanish!

**EXCELLENCE IN NEWSROOM
COLLABORATION AND
PARTNERSHIPS**

(continued)

Weekly

1st Place: Lindsay Repka, Middlebury Students, John McCright, Addison County Independent Newsroom partnership on COVID and Cancer series

Congratulations to the Addison County Independent for creating a successful partnership with biochemistry students to inform their readers about COVID. Extending this relationship to cover other health issues, like the Cancer series, is genius.

2nd Place: Derek Brouwer, Liam Elder-Connors (VPR), Seven Days COVID-19 Kept Families and Regulators Out of Eldercare Homes. This Is What Was Happening

3rd Place (tie): Kory Curcuru, Erika Brown, The Manchester Cricket Timeline Cape Ann: A Collaboration On Local History

3rd Place (tie): Grant Welker, Tom Quinn, Paul Matthews, Worcester Business Journal Restaurant Scene

FEATURE PHOTO

Daily 1

1st Place: Paul Franz, The Greenfield Recorder A wooden throne

Excellent slice of time! well done!

2nd Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times Want to be friends? funny image!

3rd Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times Summer break vibes
Excellent image

Daily 2

1st Place: Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times Mid Flight Meal
Well done

2nd Place: Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times Colorful Landing
Good Eye!

3rd Place: Don Treeger, The Republican Skating Away
Nice image

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Glenn Russell, VTDigger.org Plexiglass Santa
Nice

2nd Place: Glenn Russell, VTDigger.org Frosty Glasses
Interesting

FEATURE PHOTO

(continued)

Weekly

1st Place: Mark Alan Lovewell,

Vineyard Gazette

Eclipse

An Absolutely Beautiful Image! Lovely!
Well Done!

2nd Place: Jeremy Driesen,

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Star struck

Beautiful!

3rd Place: Margie Green Joseph,

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

**Taking advantage of a warm October
afternoon**

Well done!

FEATURE VIDEO

Daily 1

1st Place: Peter Huoppi,

The Day, New London

Dog delivers newspapers in Mystic

High quality video – this was a fun story
that was perfect for video. Nice job!

2nd Place: Kristopher Radder,

Brattleboro Reformer

A life changing moment

Kudos to Kristopher Radder for this
emotional video.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days

**Founders Hall on Saint Michael's Campus Is
Selectively Dismantled**

This video capturing the de-construction of
Founders Hall was mesmerizing!

*2nd Place: Megan James, Addison County
Independent*

The CocoaPort

Creative and heart-warming - displayed the
enduring human spirit around the holidays
during COVID.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Combined

*1st Place: Jordan Barry, Melissa Pasanen,
Sally Pollak, Seven Days*

Food + Drink Section, March 3, 2021

This is local food journalism at its best:
Timely, inclusive and compelling. After
reading this lively section, I felt like I better
understood the community covered beyond
its food-and-drink proclivities. Well done.

*2nd Place: Catherine Walthers, Randi Baird,
MV Bluedot Living*

**Kelp is on the Way! Savory Seaweed Might
Save the World**

Excellent work distinguished by beautiful
photography and thorough reporting. In a
sea (so to speak) of syndicated copy, it was
refreshing to come across an original and
highly current recipe, presented in such a
way that every reader would consider
making it.

3rd Place: Gregory Stroud,

The Connecticut Examiner

Angel Food Cake, Putting Flour to the Test

Solid chronicle of an important food
experiment.

FRONT PAGE

Combined

**1st Place: David Pollard, Lisa Lynn,
VT Ski & Ride**

The cover photo of Zeb Powell is an energy shot – nice! The light type face doesn't detract from the phot – this was the right light type. Beautiful cover.

**2nd Place: Kristina Walser,
Boston Business Journal
Front page March 19, 2021**

This cover draws in every single reader of the Boston Business Journal. Creative illustration that portrays what everyone is tryingn to figure out!

**3rd Place: Production Director Anne Ewing,
Providence Business News
BEYOND COVID: The 2020 Interview Issue
Bold design!**

Daily

**1st Place: Staff, The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Eagle, July 29, 2021**

Such a creative way to illustrate the swirl of questions going through all of our minds at this moment, and the drophed makes it clear: We have answers.

**2nd Place: Gregory Bryant, Cape Cod Times
Those we lost**

One year since the pandemic claimed a life on Cape Cod, the Times makes us stop, reflect and realize that there is a face, a person behind every number of the pandemic's devastating toll.

**3rd Place: Jim Flynn, Republican-American
May 20, 2021**

This front page, with a perfect-for-the-moment photo by Jim Shannon, reflects the

sense of relief that the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions brought, while also including a breakout of do's and don'ts. The energy of this page suggests a newspaper staff that is working hard to engage its readers every day it publishes.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Daily 1

**1st Place: Art Illman,
The MetroWest Daily News
Who's looking at you?**

Wow! Just Wow! One of those images every p[hoto]jurnalst wishes he or she captured. Perfect Composition, timing, slow shutter speed and expression. Well done!

**2nd Place: Paul Bilodeau,
Gloucester Daily Times
Museum hatches free show
Well concieived image.**

**3rd Place: Hannah Schroeder,
The Keene Sentinel
Kid mayor
Nice image!**

Daily 2

**1st Place: Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette
Doherty Graduation at Polar Park
New vantage point**

**2nd Place: Stephanie Zollshan,
The Berkshire Eagle
Saying goodbye to a local hero,
Nice**

**3rd Place: Carl Russo, The Eagle-Tribune
Saving the church
Nice**

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

(continued)

Weekly 1

**1st Place: David Sokol,
Swampscott Reporter**
Smoke
Great Fire Image

2nd Place: Gordon Miller, Stowe Reporter
Bus brushing
Strong news image

**3rd Place: Gene Marchand,
The Mashpee Enterprise**
Shellfishing Lesson
Cute news image

Weekly 2

**1st Place: Gene Marchand,
The Falmouth Enterprise**
Knob Repairs
Turning a nothing subject into art!

**2nd Place: Gene Marchand,
The Falmouth Enterprise**
Newspaper Reader
Well done

**3rd Place: Gary Higgins,
Boston Business Journal**
Uber driver during the pandemic
Good angle

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Daily 1

**1st Place: Elizabeth Regan,
The Day, New London**
Troops are coming home but not for these families
Americans talk a lot about honoring those who serve, but it's often lip service. This elegantly written tribute captures the anguish lived daily by Gold Star families.

**2nd Place: Wheeler Cowperthwaite, and
Joe Difazio, The Patriot Ledger**
Guilfoil PR
Excellent accountability reporting. No stone left unturned here.

**3rd Place: Steven Sanchez,
Taunton Daily Gazette**
From dreams to reality Former Taunton track athlete chases music dream while helping fight COVID
A highly readable profile of an incredibly inspirational newsmaker.

Daily 2

**1st Place: Cynthia McCormick,
Cape Cod Times**
Judge never hears parents' plea
These stories are painful to read, but Cynthia McCormick's gripping reporting -- done in the finest tradition of accountability journalism -- pulls back the curtain on every parent's nightmare.

2nd Place: Kim Ring, Telegram & Gazette
5-foot snake plies Ware River
This story was a welcome pandemic distraction, and it gave us a villain we didn't know we needed.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

(continued)

*3rd Place: Francesca Paris,
The Berkshire Eagle*
Sorrow of Billy Evans' death hits home in Berkshires

Respectfully reported and beautifully written.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Mia McCarthy, Boston.com
A Lowell woman was told to kill her pet goats in 72 hours

Detailed and textured reporting on a deeply intriguing -- and disturbing! -- local showdown.

*2nd Place: Brendan Crowley,
The Connecticut Examiner*
Coverage of Tropical Storm Isaias and its aftermath

Important reporting that shined a light into both the murky performance of Big Power at a time of crisis and the surprisingly effective response of smaller competitors.

3rd Place: Christopher Gavin, Boston.com
Cape Cod scuba divers believe the lobster diver who says he was trapped inside a whale. Here's why.

This saga was a national talker, but we desperately needed an explainer (so many questions!). Boston.com delivered.

Weekly 1

*1st Place: George Brennan,
The Martha's Vineyard Times*
Mansion House illegal water pumping

A superb example of covering a routine select board meeting, and discovering preferential treatment by public officials.

*2nd Place: Michael Rausch,
The Bourne Enterprise*
Opposition Greet National Guard Firing Range Presentation

Thorough coverage and reporting of a controversial firing range project.

*2nd Place: Dean Geddes,
The Inquirer and Mirror*
Mitchell Fights PFAS in Turnout Gear
An important issue for the safety of the firefighters.

*3rd Place: Paul Benson,
Provincetown Independent*
"On Being Inside a Whale: 'I Didn't Believe It at First, Either' "

Well written piece on a story that made headlines around the world.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Noah Asimow, Vineyard Gazette
Vineyard Trust Executive Director Resigns
Solid reporting on investigation into Trust executive director's falsifying documents.

2nd Place: Colin Flanders, Seven Days
Sound Effects: In the F-35's Flight Path, Vermonters' Lives Have Changed
Colin Flanders delivered a thorough, deep dive into the "Sound Effects" and the impact it has on residents.

*3rd Place: Randolph T. Holhut,
The Commons*
On the Waterfront
This piece thoroughly explores the riverfront project and the potential and challenges involved.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Daily

1st Place: Taylor Ann Bradford and Sean Horgan, Gloucester Daily Times Toxic Mayor

A fine example of watchdog journalism on the municipal beat. With strong reporting and writing, Taylor Ann Bradford painted a portrait of an erratic and bullying public official, leading to changes in personnel practices and the ousting of the erratic mayor.

2nd Place: Wheeler Cowperthwaite and Joe Difazio, The Patriot Ledger Guilfoil PR

The Ledger revealed a creepy and probably all-too-common practice of cities and towns bringing in consultants that seem more interested in circling the wagons for officials than serving the people -- and those people are paying for it. Would be interested to see what changes as a result of this strong reporting.

3rd Place: Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times Ambulance fees take patients by surprise

Doug Fraser breaks down the complex issue of surprise medical billing by tackling the wide variance in ambulance costs. The writing here makes this entry stand out.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Sarah Betancourt, Commonwealth Magazine Birth control law forgotten

A probing report that revealed how a state law intended to provide access to birth control fell victim to a lack of an implementation plan. Strong reporting by

Sarah Betancourt in shining a light on a timely health issue.

2nd Place: Steph Solis, MassLive Hundreds of complaints pour into Massachusetts' new COVID business reporting line

A public records request leads to a comprehensive review of the concerns and complaints received by the state regarding Covid rule compliance. Lots of data here, and nicely written by reporter Steph Solis.

3rd Place: Brendan Crowley, The Connecticut Examiner State Officials Switch Gears, Ask for Halt to Water Shutoffs

Nice work by the CT Examiner in stopping the wheels of an arbitrary and fairly heartless bureaucracy that was literally shutting off the tap in people's homes.

Weekly 1

1st Place: Jean Perry, Beth David, Fairhaven Neighborhood News Graves Named Interim TA Despite Concerns

Fairhaven residents can thank Beth David for doing the work town officials should have done. David dug into the shaky financial history of the interim town administrator with solid reporting and good writing. Bonus points for providing the full text of the subject's full responses at the end of the story.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

(continued)

2nd Place: John Osborn, The Harvard Press

A balancing act: The FY 2022 budget

A meticulously told explanation of the FY22 budget. This can be a deadly boring subject matter, but there are few things more important to share with readers. And John Osborn rescues it from being a snooze-fest with a fun writing style. Every town would benefit from this type of reporting at town meeting time.

3rd Place: Christopher Haraden,

The Hull Times

Land Court Beams a Beacon on Whether Graves Light is in Hull

Interesting version of a "land" dispute story that is well-told by the reporter.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Courtney Lamdin, Colin Flanders,

Sasha Goldstein, Seven Days

Dodson Plagiarized Portions of Report on Burlington Police Transformation

Seven Days delivers a textbook example of excellent enterprise reporting, uncovering plagiarized passages of a "blue ribbon" report on police reform. Reporter Courtney Lamdin smelled a rat, scrubbed the report, and did a true service for the Burlington community. This story should hang in every newsroom as an example of what municipal reporters can (and should) do.

2nd Place: Abigail Patkin, Brookline Tab

Why is Brookline losing police officers faster than it can replace them?

The Tab poses an important question, and then dives deep to examine the many answers to why Brookline is losing police

officers faster than it can hire them. Good job hitting many angles without being exhaustingly long.

3rd Place: Ethan Shorey, Valley Breeze
Pawtucket's problem with homelessness comes to a head

A comprehensive look at an issue too many of our communities are facing. The many sources interviewed help make this a well-rounded report on an important topic.

Specialty

1st Place: Cassius Shuman, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

Double Duty: Is it time for R.I.'s citizen legislature to become full time?

The PBN produces a comprehensive look at an important issue to Rhode Island. All the elements are strong: the stories, the sidebars, the graphics. The editorial shows leadership. Excellent package from start to finish.

2nd Place: Catherine Carlock

Boston Business Journal

After Janey ditches Boston's waterfront plan, radio silence at City Hall

Catherine Carlock shows great depth of knowledge about her beat and produces an enterprising report that gives the reader a real sense of what is happening behind the scenes even with many key players not willing to talk.

HEADLINE WRITING

Daily

1st Place: Copy Desk, Republican-American

*2nd Place: John Ruddy,
The Day, New London*

*3rd Place: Tim Jamiolkowski,
The Berkshire Eagle*

Weekly

1st Place: Staff, Seven Days

2nd Place: Ethan Shorey, Valley Breeze

*3rd Place: Cyndi Wood,
The Ellsworth American.*

HEALTH REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: Lindsay Tice, Sun Journal

'I'm terrified': Pharmacists struggle as workload expands

Fast paced, good quotes, must have taken some effort to get the pharmacists to talk so frankly. and an important topic

*2nd Place: Marc Larocque,
The Enterprise, Brockton*

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS INFLAMED BY PANDEMIC Experts in Brockton say 'it's a lot more busy' as they ...

Good local reporting on a national problem: a shortage of mental health services.

*3rd Place: Chris Mays,
Brambleboro Reformer
Health reporting by Chris Mays*

Reporter shows a lot of enterprise in getting a number of families to talk about a difficult topic: addiction.

Daily 2

*1st Place: Francesca Paris,
The Berkshire Eagle*

'My daughter was gone:' A rare illness forced a Dalton mom to fight for answers
Very good. Explains the PANDAS diagnosis and the controversy over it. Story discusses treatment, insurance issues, and provides lots of color of what it's like to live with the condition.

*2nd Place: Cyrus Moulton,
Telegram & Gazette*
Perfect storm at St. Vincent

This piece on the nurses strike gives both national and local context to why the nurses are in dispute with the hospital, along with a detailed responses from the hospital.

*3rd Place (tie): Cyrus Moulton,
Telegram & Gazette*
Health workers battle COVID-19 and burnout

After a burst of support in the spring, health care workers face the long slog through the fall and into the winter of the first year. The piece has lots of color and context. Tie for third

*3rd Place (tie): Cynthia McCormick,
Cape Cod Times*
Long Haulers

Good look at the Covid long haulers, the symptoms they face, the potential causes, the uncertainty, including that patients don't need to fall very ill with covid to suffer long running problems after. Tie for third

HEALTH REPORTING

(continued)

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place: Shira Schoenberg,
CommonWealth Magazine**
**For pediatric mental health patients, days
stuck in the ER**

This well written story offered a compassionate exploration of the pediatric mental health care crisis, and how the pandemic has worsened the wait times to receive treatment.

**2nd Place: Jenna Carlesso,
The Connecticut Mirror**
Health sharing ministries
This is a well written report on the religious health care sharing ministries in Connecticut, and the disputes that their members are filing – especially during the pandemic.

**3rd Place (tie): Emilia Otte,
The Connecticut Examiner**
**Private Medical Practices Shutter as COVID
Compounds Business Pressure in
Connecticut**
A good look at the reasons private medical practices are closing, especially with the pandemic and rising malpractice costs.

**3rd Place (tie): Roberta Baker,
Granite State News Collaborative**
**Nursing assistant shortage worsened by
COVID**
An in depth exploration of the desperate need for nursing assistants.

Weekly

**1st Place: Alexa Gagosz,
Providence Business News**
IS THIS THE CURE?
Good business story on an important, but often overlooked, topic: the effect of mergers on the health system. Lots of details

**2nd Place: Kate Cough,
The Ellsworth American.**
A drug to repair a broken heart?
Nice mix of the science and business, telling the story of a potential new drug without falling victim to overhyping it.

3rd Place (tie): Derek Brouwer, Seven Days
**As Vermont Battled the Pandemic, Its
Opioid Epidemic Worsened**
Good mix of local context to a national story that includes examples and a wide range of data. Tie for third .

**3rd Place (tie): Sarah Hinckley,
Mount Desert Islander**
**Women cold-water swimming to raise
funds for mental health support**
Colorfully written feature on a local effort to raise money. Tie for third

HISTORY REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: **Steve Collins, Sun Journal**

Togo: History's most heroic dog spent his final years at Poland Spring

Sometimes history stories are about consequences. Sometimes history stories are about fading memories. And sometimes history stories are just so much damn fun that they connect us with our lust for joy. That is this story. Two paragraphs in you're smiling and all in for a wonderful ride that expertly weaves fact and folklore with the appropriate dashes of humor-laden wink-winks and nod-nods. Not all history has to be ponderous to be insightful. Nice job.

2nd Place: **John Ruddy, The Day, New London**

Good Times and Bad at Lighthouse Inn

On the surface this is a story of a single inn. But really, it is so much more than that. New England is littered with Lighthouse Inns in various states of decline, neglect, revitalization, resurrection. The sublines of the Lighthouse Inn resonate throughout the region. This story beautifully conveys the historical and emotional bloodlines that connect the inn to the community. You finish reading with an understanding of the inn's importance to the past and the future.

3rd Place: **Cesareo Contreras, The Milford Daily News**

Draper Corp. mill loomed over Hopedale

Over time, communities often lose track of their historical foundations. This story nicely brings into focus elements of Hopedale's past that likely few current area residents were aware of. An interesting and informative read that serves a sound

community service. Good detail thoughtfully presented.

Daily 2

1st Place (tie): **Martin Begnal, Republican-American 'Left behind'**

These articles are an exceptional recounting of an important piece of Connecticut history - 14th Connecticut Volunteers and their role in the Civil War. The series smartly uses the fate of one soldier, Sgt. Alexander McNeil of Waterbury, the entry point to reveal the group's tragic fate. The supporting supporting online media make for a particularly strong package.

1st Place (tie): **Cape Cod Times A Fateful Encounter**

I'm at a loss for words to describe the brilliance of this exquisite reexamination of the Pilgrims and the birth of this nation. Seriously, I could go on for hours. Simply said, it hits every criterion for exceptional reporting, editing and presentation out of the park. Truly impactful journalism at its finest.

2nd Place: **The Republican "Remembering the 2011 Tornado / 10 years later"**

An outstanding series recounting the destruction and resurrection of Springfield's South End neighborhood. Well conceived, planned and executed, this package is of community significance because it creates a record that will be referenced for years to come. Lots of local voices and color wrapped around excellent detail. Another year against lesser competition this series could easily take first-place honors.

HISTORY REPORTING

(continued)

*3rd Place: Jennifer Huberdeau,
The Berkshire Eagle*

"AGAINST THE VOTE? The Anti-Susan B. Anthony also came from the Berkshires"

What a fascinating bit of history. Two prominent voices on opposite sides of the suffragette movement hail from the Berkshires. This article deftly chronicles the intriguing paradoxes of Susan B. Anthony adversary Anna Dawes and leaves the reader curious to learn more, which good history stories do.

News Services and Online News Sites

*1st Place: William J. Kole & Steven Senne,
The Associated Press*

Ancient coins may solve mystery of murderous 1600s pirate

2nd Place: Christopher Gavin, Boston.com
Kim Janey is Boston's first Black mayor. A local historian broke down the significance.

*3rd Place: Emilia Otte,
The Connecticut Examiner*
By Building Community, Natusch Guides New London Preservation

Weekly

*1st Place: Devina Bhalla,
Worcester Business Journal*
Slavery's legacy in the Central Mass. economy

This article earns first place because of the depth of the reporting that chronicles the greater Worcester region's economic dependence on slavery for more than a

century and how those entanglements reverberate to this day. Really well done with excellent supporting graphics and a great presentation. A solid package all the way around.

2nd Place: Robert Cocuzzo, N-Magazine
Just History

A well-written and informative piece offering insight into Nantucket's historically dynamic African American community. The article also engenders an appreciation that past events and individuals can be a catalyst for contemporary progress. Very nicely presented.

3rd Place: George Comeau, Canton Citizen
True Tales from Canton's Past: A Telegram to 138 High Street

A captivating recounting of Canton's historical links to one of the most compelling stories and characters of World War II. It is a chilling reminder that seemingly disparate and distant events can be inexorably entwined. Told with a deft hand.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Daily 1

*1st Place: Hadley Barndollar, Deb Cram,
Portsmouth Herald*
The Last Responder

A gripping account and a standout feature. Injects humanity throughout a little-visited topic in all of the attention paid to the pandemic. The principal and his work are apt subjects for this well-written piece. Excellent top and ending to a well-rounded story. Excellent, compelling, complementary photos.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

(continued)

*2nd Place: Brian Steele,
Daily Hampshire Gazette
The Last Run*

Makes what could have been a routine feature a more heartwarming account. Multiple angles and multiple interviews help: Mother-son bond; overcoming adversity; respect of others. Rating is 8.5.

*3rd Place: The Day, New London
Stonington fisherman says, 'It's risky. It's dangerous...I wouldn't change one thing.'*
Interesting tale, well told. Narrative propels reader along, with strong direct quotes and insight into this man's views and job.

*3rd Place: Lauren Young,
The MetroWest Daily News
Franklin girl, 3, loses part of her leg*
Tearjerker with uplifting messages. Quick read because so well-written and organized. Caution about ride-on mowers adds to this story. Good photos.

Daily 2

*1st Place: Jeannette Hinkle,
Cape Cod Times
Weathering the storm:*
Combination of a heartwarming and heartbreaking story. Shows both the courage and endurance of a family plagued with a series of COVID tragedies, yet soldiering on, bravely and steadfastly.

*2nd Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy,
Republican-American
Fassett's Farm turns page*
Lavishly written tale, full of details, good quotes and an attention-holding story. The descriptive writing alone makes this piece a contender.

*3rd Place: Steve Barlow,
Republican-American
People of the pandemic*
Emotional and inspirational. Well-written and organized. Excellent top and ending. Excellent photos.

News Services and Online News Sites

*1st Place: Mark Pazniokas,
The Connecticut Mirror
Escapes from Afghanistan, coordinated from a home office in Connecticut*
Involved, but well-presented account of an unofficial but successful rescue effort for people stranded in Afghanistan during the ill-fated U.S. withdrawal. Good mix of details about the elaborate rescue tactics and the humanitarian ideals that drove those involved.

*2nd Place: Tom Westerholm, Boston.com
CLTX Gaming star with cystic fibrosis hopes to inspire others with his disease*
Inspiring story. Story lets Mustafa's grit and determination and positive attitude shine through a sterling account of success despite difficulty.

*3rd Place: Arianna MacNeill, Boston.com
A father had a heart attack the morning of his daughter's wedding*
Touching tale, well told and succinctly so. Not a wasted word in delivering this heartwarming tale of father-daughter love and caring caretakers.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

(continued)

Specialty

1st Place: Robert Cocuzzo, N-Magazine
Rising from the Ashes

2nd Place: Veer Mudambi,
Worcester Magazine
A refugee's journey

3rd Place: Jessica Bartlett,
Boston Business Journal
Worcester funeral home Graham Putnam & Mahoney is on a mission to help the forgotten

Weekly 1

1st Place: Dean Geddes,
The Inquirer and Mirror
Sixty-three Years Later, Plane Crash Survivor Wants to Protect Hallowed Ground

2nd Place: Brian Bushard,
The Inquirer and Mirror
Born with no Arms, Islander's Dream of Prosthetic Limbs Realized

3rd Place: Rich Harbert,
Old Colony Memorial
Plymouth locksmith Paul Grossman holds the key to happiness

Weekly 2

1st Place: Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days
Mother Load: A Year in the Life of Three Single Moms in Vermont

2nd Place: Melissa Pasanen, Seven Days
Viva el Sabor Reveals Mexican Cooking Traditions in the Farmworker Community

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Combined

1st Place: Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times
The shot heard round the world/A present for Bob

This memory column rocks! Sweet, humorous, and touching.

2nd Place: Carol Vasta Folley,
Stowe Reporter
Appetizers; Sorry

The subject matter is relatable and fun to read.

3rd Place: Nancy Slonim Aronie,
MV Bluedot Living
Nancy Slonim Aronie Essays

The theme of the writer's husband saving the planet one factoid at a time and her just trying to live her life, is really amusing.

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS

Daily

1st Place: Francesca Paris, Evan Berkowitz,
The Berkshire Eagle
"By Jove," Dec. 19-20, 2020

Gorgeous typography, beautiful design and fantastic use of infographics make this a winner!

2nd Place: Tom Lynch,
New Hampshire Union Leader
New Hampshire in the Navy
Great images and well-designed page!

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS

(continued)

*3rd Place: Maria Reagan, Tim Cotter,
The Day, New London*

Language of the pandemic

Coronavirus infographic / word cloud leads this nicely-designed page!

Weekly

*1st Place: Leslie Garrett, Nicole Jackson,
MV Bluedot Living*

What.On.Earth: Temperature's Rising

Gorgeous illustration & typographic design. Amazing infographic. Great to keep!

*2nd Place: Christina Grogan,
Boston Business Journal*

Cannabis in Massachusetts: A timeline

Very well-designed timeline of subject matter. Pertinent photos and illustration throughout. Beautiful.

*3rd Place: David Fickett,
The Ellsworth American.*

Cost of a road

Fantastic, well-done image for this construction cost infographic page.

INVESTIGATIVE / ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Daily 1

1st Place: Lindsay Tice, Sun Journal
Education under siege: A Sun Journal investigation

An important story impacting thousands of students and their families. In-depth data analysis and compelling findings. Superb work.

*2nd Place: Kyle Stucker,
Fosters Daily Democrat*

Doug Lachance sex abuse investigation

A well-researched, in-depth piece of investigative reporting. Great work.

*3rd Place: Dusty Christensen,
Daily Hampshire Gazette*

Many details hidden in UMass corporate research agreements

A terrific example of "following the money." In this case, perseverance in the pursuit of public records paid off. This is an important higher education story that should be replicated in every state. Bravo.

Daily 2

*1st Place: Brad Petrishen,
Telegram & Gazette*

Main South protest arrest

This story and this reporter exemplify the meaning of holding the powerful accountable. An excellent piece of in-depth reporting that truly made a difference.

*2nd Place: Patrick Johnson,
The Republican*

SPD Blues

A superb piece of in-depth enterprise reporting that does an excellent job explaining the deep-seated problems in one city's police department. Well done.

3rd Place: Josie Albertson-Grove and Mark Hayward, New Hampshire Union Leader
Charters serve fewer at-risk kids than nearby schools

Using data analysis, this story raises important questions about whether charter schools are serving a population that most needs help. Excellent work.

INVESTIGATIVE / ENTERPRISE REPORTING

(continued)

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place: Emma Cotton, VTDigger.org
Slate Ridge**

A superb piece of reporting that raised serious red flags about the potential dangers of a militia training site in Vermont. The reporting was strong enough to force state officials to take action. Bravo.

**2nd Place: Katie Jickling, VTDigger.org
The Vice Principal: How a small Vermont town overlooked the abuse of two teens**

An excellent piece of in-depth reporting on an issue that was overlooked for too long.

**3rd Place: Jacqueline Rabe Thomas and Kasturi Pananjady, The Connecticut Mirror
Undocumented immigrant stuck in a hospital for six months**

An excellent example of reporting that holds the powerful accountable for bureaucratic absurdity that seriously impacts the lives of vulnerable people. Well done!

Weekly

**1st Place: Derek Brouwer, Seven Days
Investors With Questionable Records Want to Buy Five Vermont Nursing Homes. Will the State Let Them?**

Excellent piece of investigative reporting that digs deep and uncovers crucial information that can impact the lives of thousands of Vermonters. Well done!

**2nd Place: Jasper Craven, Seven Days
Sergeant Accused of Sexual Assaults Remains in Vermont Guard Despite Criminal Record**

A terrific example of reporting that holds the powerful accountable and can end up protecting the public. Superbly done.

**3rd Place: Rich Saltzberg,
The Martha's Vineyard Times
Tisbury Police investigation**

Relentless reporting that exposes serious incompetence that impacts public safety. Great work.

**3rd Place: Tommy Gardner,
Stowe Reporter
Rape Allegations against Stowe Fire Chief lead to deep divisions in town**

Despite being strapped for time and resources, this reporter did an excellent job of pursuing a story that the public deserved to know about. Bravo.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Combined

**1st Place: The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Landscapes, Feb. 6-7, 2021**
Bittersweet tribute to the restaurants and bars that were lost during the pandemic. Well done!

**2nd Place: The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Landscapes, Oct. 24-25, 2020**
This halloween section is a delightful treat!

**3rd Place: Letitia Baldwin,
The Ellsworth American.
Ellsworth American Arts & Leisure**
Strong layout, appealing content.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Daily 2

1st Place: Republican-American Voting 2020

Excellent packages providing in-depth information for the 2020 elections. The Republican-American offered everything – voting primers, candidate profiles, how to vote during the pandemic, what you can wear to the polls, and everything in between.

2nd Place: Jim Kinney, The Republican Meat and Potatoes voters rallied for Neal Victory

Well-written, comprehensive analysis of local race.

3rd Place: Brad Petrishen, Telegram & Gazette Ballot Blitz

3rd Place: The Eagle-Tribune Pre and post election coverage 2020

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Nik DeCosta-Klipa, Boston.com How Ed Markey became the first person to beat a Kennedy in Massachusetts

2nd Place: Staff, VTDigger.org VTDigger 2020 Election Guide & Town Meeting Day Coverage

3rd Place: Bruce Mohl, Commonwealth Magazine The bureaucrat vs. the GOP star

Weekly

1st Place: Courtney Lamdin, Seven Days Burlington's Mayoral Race

2nd Place: Addison County Independent Local Voter Guide and Outcome coverage

3rd Place: Olga Peters, The Commons No comparison

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Daily 2

1st Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy, Republican-American Farewell, Father Joe

This is not your typical happy retirement story about the parish priest. It's a warm, intimate, sensitive and "heads-on" look at the life of a priest and his community and what they mean and do for each other. Plenty of interesting insights and detail through well-managed and wide-ranging interviews, topped off with excellent writing. The author asks the hard questions and Father Joe tells all. A clear winner in a category loaded with great stories and fine writing.

2nd Place: Heather Bellow, The Berkshire Eagle Khali Zabian works her way back into life with an unyielding resolve

A heart-wrenching and touching account of how a young woman who rallies against all odds after a near-fatal car accident. The writer does an excellent job of capturing her faith and personal struggles and the emotions, strength, and devotion of her loved ones and caregivers. A wonderful look at the human spirit.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

(continued)

3rd Place: Cynthia McCormick,

Cape Cod Times

'I was not alone'

A skillfully written and poignant piece about a woman who suffers through COVID-19 and the death of her husband at the same time. It takes us deep inside the devastation of her illness and the painful early days of widowhood she was forced to endure in isolation at home. Well done!

Daily 1

1st Place: John Penney,

Norwich Bulletin

Norwich warehouse fire survivor: 'Every night for the last 59 years I say my prayers for the boys'

This gripping story traces the decades of horrors and recurring nightmares of Tom LaFreniere, a decorated combat infantryman and firefighter who lost four comrades in a fire that forever changed a community and the way vehicles carrying volatile liquids are identified. The writer does a great job of explaining the anguish LaFreniere suffered reliving the fire through the years and how he refused to let that be a negative in his life. Good detail and strong writing.

2nd Place: Fred Hanson,

The Patriot Ledger

Braintree man will push airline drink cart from Boston to Ground Zero

Multiple stories are woven in this well-written piece about a man dedicated to honoring his co-workers and friends lost in 9/11 in a very unusual way, and how that determination aides his battle against addiction.

3rd Place: Zane Razzaq,

The MetroWest Daily News

Kara Toomey overcomes rare disease by playing piano

Insightful and sensitive account of a woman's three-year journey of recovery from a rare neurological disorder which left her unable to move and took her life as she knew it. An excellent look at the struggle to reclaim her life from learning to pick up a nickel to her goals of achieving complete independence.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Christopher Gavin, Boston.com

The tale of the 'Pinckney Piper': Meet Beacon Hill's roaming pandemic bagpiper

Christopher Gavin hits all the right notes, featuring the bagpiping services of Jeremy Bell. We learn about how Bell began his weekly stroll through Beacon Hill, playing his bagpipes, much to the delight of the residents during the pandemic. Gavin does a fine job in bringing this colorful musician to life. Gavin's descriptive writing style is fun and easy to read.

2nd Place: Shira Schoenberg,

CommonWealth Magazine

John Velis profile

Shira Schoenberg shows journalistic excellence in bringing us the story of Sen. John Velis' battle with alcoholism. We get an in-depth and honest look at all the emotions and struggles Velis went through during his many years of ignoring and later dealing with the destruction that alcoholism creates in someone's life. Congratulations to Shira for gaining enough trust from Sen. Velis to help him open up with frank honesty about his struggles and his efforts to put his life back together with the help of his friends.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

(continued)

**3rd Place: Cate Hewitt,
The Connecticut Examiner**

David Griswold Writes a Life Story

Here is a very interesting story by Cate Hewitt about a man who defied his family's lofty expectations and carved out his own path in life. Hewitt holds the readers' attention from start to finish with a finely-crafted tale of how David Griswold navigated the separate worlds of his aristocratic family and his service in the Marines during the Vietnam War.

Specialty

**1st Place: Bruce A. Percelay, N-Magazine
The Fascinating Mr. Reade**

This is an incredible story about Arthur Reade, who was reading the Wall Street Journal at age 3 and went to Harvard when he was 13 years old. Bruce A. Percelay captured the real essence of Arthur's not-so-normal and very accomplished life.

**2nd Place: Monica Benevides,
Worcester Business Journal
Upended**

Monica Busch wrote a fine piece on Julia Becker Collins and her battle with thyroid cancer. How Monica put this story together shows a real flare for grabbing our attention and holding it. Excellent job!

**3rd Place: Robert Cocuzzo, N-Magazine
Life's Design**

Robert Cocuzzo provides a very well done piece on interior designer Karli Stahl, who comes across as a very positive and skilled artist, but went through despair thanks to cancer.

Weekly 1

**1st Place: Tommy Gardner, Stowe Reporter
Flatbed Logger**

Here is a fascinating in-depth look into the colorful and very interesting life of Rusty Dewees. Tommy Gardner captured the true essence of who Dewees, writing in a beautiful style that holds the attention of the reader from start to finish.

**2nd Place: Tommy Gardner,
Stowe Reporter
Walking Paul**

Tommy Gardner has a flare for introducing us to interesting people and helping to bring them to life in very compelling stories. This time, he lets us into the world of Walking Paul Sakash. The writing is so good, it feels like we are walking right along side of Paul and Tommy.

**3rd Place: Paul Sullivan,
Provincetown Independent
"Thirsty Burlington Prepares for a Post-Covid World"**

This story by Paul Sullivan about the life of a musician during these days of COVID-19 really works at bringing us inside a place we normally don't get to go. Very nice piece of feature writing!



Weekly 2

1st Place: Louisa Hufstader, Vineyard Gazette

Her Own History in the Spotlight, Charlayne Hunter-Gault Reflects

This piece of profile journalism by Louisa Hufstader flows smoothly, guiding us from the present to the past and back again with excellent writing craftsmanship. We get a compelling look into the heart and soul of Charlayne Hunter-Gault - one of the first Blacks to attend the University of Georgia 61 years ago. This isn't just a listing of what she's done with her life, but a story of what is living inside of her and what she wants to share with the rest of us.

2nd Place: Derek Brouwer, Seven Days
Raj Bhakta's Purchase of Green Mountain College Places Poultney's Fate in His Hands

Derek Brouwer's piece on Whistle-Pig founder Raj Bhakta is filled with interesting tales from the world of the guy who, among many other ventures, bought Green Mountain College. The people of Poultney get a very up-close look at someone who will have a big effect on the community's life.

3rd Place: Maia Coleman, Vineyard Gazette
Standing Up by Kneeling Down, Dana Nunes Surprised Herself

Excellent piece on activist Dana Nunes. Maia Coleman really captured what's in the heart of this very modest, but determined woman.

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Daily

1st Place: Staff, Portsmouth Herald
The Last Responder

2nd Place: Lee Lewis, Republican-American
'Left behind'

3rd Place: Staff, Republican-American
Life with COVID

Weekly

1st Place: Middlebury Students, Lindsay Repka, John McCright, Addison County Independent
Multimedia Coverage Covid and Community

2nd Place: Alison Novak, Cat Cutillo, Seven Days
Burlington High School Opens Downtown Campus in Former Macy's

3rd Place: Ethan Weinstein, The Mountain Times
"They healed me": a life changed by fungi

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Daily 1

1st Place: Deb Cram, Fosters Daily Democrat
Big Teeth
Strong image

2nd Place: Kristopher Radder, Brattleboro Reformer
General news feature photo
Nice

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

*3rd Place: Ken McGagh,
The Milford Daily News
Future Voter
Cute*

Daily 2

*1st Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times
Herring Run
Perspective*

*2nd Place: Leon Nguyen, The Republican
Putnam Graduation
Reaction*

*3rd Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times
Outdoor Christmas
Lovely*

Weekly 1

*1st Place: David Sokol, Salem Gazette
Puppy
Excellent Moment!*

*2nd Place: David Sokol, The Danvers Herald
Skateboard graduate
Well Done!*

*3rd Place: Camille Fine, York Weekly
How York lifeguards promote beach safety
Nice news feature*

Weekly 2

*1st Place: Gary Higgins,
Boston Business Journal
Pandemic hits JetBlue's airline travel
Striking*

*2nd Place: Jeanna Shepard,
Vineyard Gazette
SBB/Stefanie Batten Bland dance company
Nice*

*3rd Place: Cyndi Wood,
The Ellsworth American.
Tall ship arrives
Headshot of a ship*

NEWS VIDEO

Combined

*1st Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days
Stuck in Vermont: The Tran Family
Patriarch Gets Vaccinated*

*2nd Place: Mike Dougherty, VTDigger.org
How to vote in Vermont's 2020 general
election*

*3rd Place: Ben Garver, The Berkshire Eagle
Sick of the rain? Get in line, say Berkshires
farmers.*

OBITUARIES

Daily 1

*1st Place: Megan Fernandes,
Fosters Daily Democrat
'All for Andre' Dover High School mourns
death of 16-year-old
Beautiful tribute to a wonderful young man
who made a big contribution in this world.
The story and photos are uplifting and
inspirational, which is the best kind of obit.
Great treatment, given the sensitive subject
of teen suicide.*

OBITUARIES

(continued)

2nd Place: Cody Shepard, The Enterprise, Brockton
'HE NEVER HAD ANY HEALTH ISSUES' Brockton native, 37, described as 'huge ray of light,' ...

Excellent account of a wonderful young man's life and a tragic loss due to the pandemic. Great presentation too, with big impact on the front page.

3rd Place: Steven Sanchez, Taunton Daily Gazette
'FRIEND TO ALL' D-R mourns former track star Jared Torres

Beautifully written; a fine tribute to a wonderful young man.

Daily 2

1st Place: Emily Thurlow, The Republican
Beloved Boston Marathon icon Dick Hoyt dies at 80

A fitting tribute to a great hero. No doubt, many readers who had not known of Team Hoyt before reading this came away awed and inspired. Nice work!

2nd Place: Danny Jin, The Berkshire Eagle
'She welcomed everybody into her chosen family'

Excellent story about an extraordinary person who we all got to know by reading this beautiful account of her life and impact.

3rd Place: Francesca Paris, The Berkshire Eagle
Joe Manning, longtime North Adams historian and admirer, has died
Interesting account of a man who deeply loved North Adams -- well done!

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Heather Morrison, MassLive
Chris Thibault, West Springfield videographer, shared one last moment with wife

Excellent and very well-written story of a courageous fighter facing cancer and his courageous wife and family.

2nd Place: Tom Westerholm, Boston.com
'Unforgettable' Terrence Clarke remembered for his charisma, drive, and leadership

3rd Place: Zipporah Osei, Boston.com
Boston.com readers honor loved ones lost to COVID-19

Weekly 1

1st Place: K.C. Myers, Provincetown Independent
"Columnist Marguerite 'Beata' Cook, 96, Was Up-Front About Everything"
Excellent account of the life of a very interesting woman.

2nd Place: Karen Hunter, The Sandwich Enterprise
Remembering Clyde
Very interesting recap of a life well lived by one of the town's most special citizens.

3rd Place: Dennis Minsky, Provincetown Independent
"Joe Bones, Who Had a Million Stories, Is Gone"
Beautifully written reflection on the life of someone that anyone would be privileged to know it seems.

OBITUARIES

(continued)

Weekly 2

**1st Place: Colin Flanders, Seven Days
COVID-19 Claims a Hardwick Couple
Married for Nearly 68 Years**

An inspiring love story that ended due to the pandemic. Touching account involving a topical subject.

**2nd Place: Robert Cocuzzo, N-Magazine
The World Was His Oyster**

A Nantucket original has passed-- good story and nice tribute.

**3rd Place: Kris Olson, Massachusetts
Lawyers Weekly**

**After decades of service, courtroom sketch
artist dies at 84**

Nice tribute and a very interesting story.

OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER

Combined

**1st Place: Lukas Southard,
The Berkshire Eagle**

The Berkshires in Brief

High for content; high for design/layout and high for engagement

**2nd Place: Megan James and staff,
Addison County Independent
Addison Independent News Digest and
Minibury**

High for editorial content; High for layout and design; High for engagement

**3rd Place: VTDigger.org
Final Reading by VTDigger**

High for editorial; High for layout and design; Mid for engagement

PANDEMIC PHOTO

Daily 1

**1st Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times
COVID testing site seeing up to 800
patients a day**
Powerful image!

**2nd Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times
Camping in 2020**
well composed and touching image

**3rd Place: Deb Cram,
Portsmouth Herald
Embalming Room**
Not normally seen area. Well done!

Daily 2

**1st Place: Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette
Treating COVID-19 at UMass Memorial
Medical Center**
One Image says it all!

**2nd Place: Don Treeger, The Republican
Testing**
Excellent composition and lighting. Well done!

**3rd Place: Ben Garver, The Berkshire Eagle
Boys and Girls club visits senior center,
Nov. 25, 2020**
Familiar to folks across the country!

PANDEMIC PHOTO

(continued)

Weekly 1

1st Place: Gordon Miller, Stowe Reporter

Campus Tour

Nice

2nd Place: David Sokol, Melrose Free Press

Vaccine

Nice

3rd Place: David Sokol, Beverly Citizen

Nurse Sign

Well done

Weekly 2

1st Place: Gordon Miller, News & Citizen

Year in Review

Strong Image

2nd Place: Gary Higgins,

Boston Business Journal

Covid igloo

Interesting

3rd Place: Ray Ewing, Vineyard Gazette

West Tisbury School student

Nice

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Daily 1

1st Place: Ken McGagh,

The MetroWest Daily News

100th birthday

A really touching image

2nd Place: Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald

Prepare the Muscet

Nice image

3rd Place: Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald

Emotional Kiss

Well done!

Specialty

1st Place: Kit Noble, N-Magazine

Nantucket Fire Captain

Excellent!!

2nd Place: Christine Peterson,

Worcester Living Magazine

Charles Dickens collector

A Dickens of an image!

3rd Place: Brian Sager, N-Magazine

Leading Ladies

Nice

Weekly 1

1st Place: David Sokol, Beverly Citizen

Graduation Fall

Nice moment

2nd Place: David Sokol, Somerville Journal

Veteran Birthday

Nice

3rd Place: Paul Rogers, Stowe Reporter

Flatbed Logger

Nice

Weekly 2

1st Place: Mark Alan Lovewell,

Vineyard Gazette

Geraldine Brooks threw the first pitch

Very Lovely slice of time

2nd Place: Ray Ewing, Vineyard Gazette

Boys and girls club summer campers

Cute

PERSONALITY PHOTO

(continued)

*3rd Place: Steve James,
Addison County Independent
Lake Dunmore ice fishing derby
trio2835.jpg
Joy*

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Combined

*1st Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton
Christmas Lights in East Bridgewater
Nice*

*2nd Place: Kristina Walser,
Boston Business Journal
Unicorn illustration
Well done*

*3rd Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner
Cocktail
Nice job*

PHOTO SERIES

Combined

*1st Place: Ken McGagh,
The Milford Daily News
Fire At The Tradesman
Strong coverage*

*2nd Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner
Nor'easter
Solid storm images*

*3rd Place: David Sokol, Salem Gazette
Family Boxing
Good Story*

PHOTO STORY

Daily

*1st Place: Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald
Funeral director is the last responder
Well done story on a difficult subject*

*2nd Place: Yehyun Kim,
The Connecticut Mirror
Photo story: The holiday spirit
Well done!*

*3rd Place: Dave Roback, The Republican
Flower Farm
nice story*

Weekly

*1st Place: Gary Higgins,
Boston Business Journal
Yale riches vs. New Haven poverty
Meaningful story. well done*

*2nd Place: Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner
Launch at Willcut
Strong story*

*3rd Place: Tim Clark, The Harvard Press
Firefighters train with controlled burn at
house on St. John's Lane.
Well done*

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Daily 1

1st Place: **Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald**

After the Fire

Good eye on a lovely image

2nd Place: **Peter Pereira,**

The Standard-Times

The art of living vibrantly

Nice image

3rd Place: **Ken McGagh,**

The MetroWest Daily News

Late Skate

Well done

Daily 2

1st Place: **Ben Garver, The Berkshire Eagle**

Christmas at Windy Hill Farm, Dec. 24 2020

Lovely image

2nd Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times**

Hazy sunset

Beautiful

3rd Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times**

Star Trails

Really nice image

Weekly 1

1st Place: **Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner**

Raindrops

This is a Well done Piece of ART!

2nd Place: **Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner**

Harvest Moon

Lovely!

3rd Place: **Gordon Miller, Stowe Reporter**

Moon over Akeley

Very nice

3rd Place: **Gordon Miller, Stowe Reporter**

Honk If You Like Spring

Beautiful!

Weekly 2

1st Place: **David Sokol, North Shore Sunday**

Moonrise

Truely a Piece of ART! Well Done!

2nd Place: **Mark Alan Lovewell,**

Vineyard Gazette

Halloween Full Moon

Lovely ART! Very nice image!

3rd Place: **Gary Higgins,**

Boston Business Journal

Worker cleans the New England Aquarium

Lovely

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Combined

1st Place: **Eric Davis,**

Addison County Independent

GOP: Trump or tradition and Vt bound by Dillon's Rule

Nothing like clear, crisp explanations that

inform the reader to make for a solid

weekly column. Plainly put, I want the

professor to provide me weekly lessons.

Political columnists can be predictable in

the right or left leaning prose. Or they can

educate the reader to be better citizens.

This column is the latter and is really a joy

to read.

2nd Place: **Greg Sukiennik,**

Bennington Banner

Political columnist

The writer uses baseball as an analogy to

begin one of the columns. This is

appropriate as the "inside baseball" tone is what drives this column. The mission of the column is clear to inform, engage, and encourage participation by providing day-by-day session information and how to view it. Wonkiness is a hard hurdle to jump when explaining legislative activity. This writer comes close to writing around it, but still leaves a weighty amount to sift through to understand the players and the solutions. Directing the reader to engage is an important call to action.

*3rd Place: Jill Goldthwait,
The Ellsworth American.
State of Maine*

Clear writing style that has a mission to explain and inform. Takes complex procedures and breaks them down to bite-sized portions. Notable example of this is the column on the legislature's bill process, the governor's veto power and how the utility companies combining into a publicly held entity is a hot potato.

PORTRAIT PHOTO

Daily 1

*1st Place: Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald
Worried and Evicted*

This an excellent image! Very strong

*2nd Place: Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald
Horse Love*

Very strong image. Excellent moment

*3rd Place: Olivia Falcigno,
Fosters Daily Democrat
Madison with her grandmother*

A truly cute image

Daily 2

*1st Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times
Wampanoag tribal member
Beautiful!*

*2nd Place: Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times
Owl Peronality
Amazing*

*3rd Place: Leon Nguyen, The Republican
SPD (Springfield Police Department)
Pinning Ceremony
Nice moment*

Specialty

*1st Place: Rick Cinclair,
Worcester Magazine
A Refugee's Journey
Lovely*

*2nd Place: Christine Peterson,
Worcester Living Magazine
Embracing the Season
Cute*

*3rd Place: Christine Peterson,
Worcester Living Magazine
A Soft Spot For Marblehead
Nice*

Weekly 1

*1st Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner
Potter
Nice*

*2nd Place: David Sokol, Saugus Advertiser
Barber
Well done*

*3rd Place: Robin Chan, Marshfield Mariner
Librarian
Nice*

Weekly 2

1st Place: Jeanna Shepard,
Vineyard Gazette
Kate Taylor
Nice portrait

2nd Place: Maria Thibodeau,
Vineyard Gazette
Kara Taylor
Well done

3rd Place: Timothy Johnson,
Vineyard Gazette
Brian Weiland
Impressive

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
COVERAGE**

Combined

1st Place: Francesca Paris,
The Berkshire Eagle
Williams prof disavows own finding of
mishandled GOP ballots

2nd Place: Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times
Banking on old-school politics

3rd Place: Bera Dunau,
Daily Hampshire Gazette
For these Valley residents, Trump's terrific

3rd Place: Jim Campen,
Provincetown Independent
"Mapping the Trump Vote on Cape Cod"

**RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GENDER ISSUE
COVERAGE**

Daily 1

1st Place: Zane Razzaq, Hadley Barndollar,
The MetroWest Daily News
Hopkinton faces its own reckoning on race
and identity following Mikayla Miller's
death

Well written, well organized, good, lucid
reporting and writing by Zane Razzaq and
Hadley Barndollar.

2nd Place: Ethan Winter,
The Milford Daily News
Is it time to retire the Mohawk?

Ethan Winter, writing for the Milford Daily
News and MetroWest Daily News, writes
deeply and with compassion on an issue
that is too often painted with a shallow
broad brush.

2nd Place: Ethan Winter,
The Milford Daily News
Tomahawks name still lives on despite
controversy

Ethan Winter, writing for the Milford Daily
News and MetroWest Daily News, writes
deeply and with compassion on an issue
that is too often painted with a shallow
broad brush.

3rd Place (tie): Kristina Dorsey,
The Day, New London
New law prohibits discrimination based on
natural hairstyles

Compelling, readable piece by Kristina
Dorsey on the importance of hairstyles in
minority communities.

RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GENDER ISSUE COVERAGE

(continued)

3rd Place (tie): **Mary Whitfill, The Patriot Ledger**
Diversity deficiency: Does town hall reflect the South Shore

Good assessment. Holding government accountable with a careful, well written account of where a region is on diversity.

Daily 2

1st Place: **Julia Anne Weekes, New Hampshire Union Leader**
NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OWN uncomfortable truth

Julia Ann Weekes weaves a wonderful tale, turning a tour into a suspenseful allegory.

2nd Place: **Jeffery Kurz, Record-Journal**
From Jim Crow South to Connecticut, Meriden man has spent lifetime battling racism

A profile for the ages. Should be required reading in the schools.

3rd Place (tie): **Francesca Paris, The Berkshire Eagle**
How to get more women in office?

Some sterling writing, good explainer with a nod to history.

3rd Place (tie): **Laura Damon, Newport Daily News**
Bi-racial family ponders life in Little Compton after multiple incidents of alleged racism

A well written examination of racism.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: **Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, The Connecticut Mirror**
Snob zoning

Excellent reporting and writing. Thorough and lively at the same time.

2nd Place: **Khari Thompson, Boston.com**
'Everyday racism' underlies Black athletes' mistrust of COVID vaccine, local doctor says

Clean, well written and thoroughly reported story.

3rd Place (tie): **Emilia Otte, The Connecticut Examiner**
Banking and Business Ties Key to Federal Aid Process For Minority-Owned Businesses

Makes a difficult issue understandable. Explain the problem, reports solutions.

3rd Place (tie): **Granite State News Collaborative and partners,**
Race and Equity in New Hampshire

Good, explainer on a difficult issue. Helps show the way.

Specialty

1st Place: **Veer Mudambi, Worcester Magazine**
Across generations: Worcester's Vietnamese community finding its voice

2nd Place (tie): **Craig Semon, Worcester Magazine**
Beyond the Paint' spotlights artists behind Black Lives Matter mural

2nd Place (tie): **Monica Benevides, Worcester Business Journal**
Sharing paychecks

RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GENDER ISSUE COVERAGE

(continued)

3rd Place: Jessica Bartlett, Boston Business Journal
Salem brewer sparks a national #MeToo movement in the craft beer industry

Weekly

1st Place: Kyra Steck and staff, The Martha's Vineyard Times
Voices on Racism

2nd Place: Lily Robinson, Harvard Press DEI Project Team, The Harvard Press
Confronting racism in Harvard Public Schools

3rd Place: Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days
Vermont Has Endangered Transgender Prisoners. Change Is Coming — but Is It Enough?

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Daily

1st Place: Stephanie Barry, The Republican
In shadow of abuse, shame, hopelessness
As attorney Robert DiTusa notes, Fran O'Connell's "story is not entirely unique," but victim stories must still be told, to hold the church and other institutions who looked the other way accountable, and to help other victims know they are not alone and not at fault.

2nd Place: Jill Harmacinski, The Eagle-Tribune
A COVID-free spiritual sanctuary
Nice story on the determination of a priest to celebrate Mass in a safe setting that didn't include watching on an app.

3rd Place: Linda Roy, The Standard-Times
Mysterious images found on walls under wallpaper

It's too bad the mystery wasn't solved, but in some ways it's better because it's unsolved. Either way, it's a story people can't resist talking about.

Weekly

1st Place: Chelsea Edgar, Seven Days
In Enforcing Pandemic Precautions, Vermont Treads Lightly in Houses of Worship

A well-sourced and -written story examining, as its print headline suggests, the "Church Meets State" challenges of getting houses of worship to follow the Vermont governor's mask and distancing precautions amid a global pandemic.

2nd Place: Colin Flanders, Seven Days
The Holy Sprint: A Vermont Church Reads the Bible in 24 Hours

By investing enough time at a Vermont church's 24-hour exercise of faith, Colin Flanders turns what could have been a quick-hit story into a satisfying read.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

(continued)

**3rd Place: Paul Sullivan,
Provincetown Independent
“Gay Catholics Seek Solace and Spirituality
at St. Peter’s”**

Without ignoring the issues that separate the Catholic Church and the LGBTQ community, Paul Sullivan's story focuses on what connects them in profound ways.

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Combined

**1st Place: Rich Saltzberg,
The Martha's Vineyard Times
Tisbury Police records**

This one's long, but it's because this is one of the strongest entries we've seen in years. Rich Saltzberg of the Martha's Vineyard Times is the Harry Houdini of public records. Government officials might slam shut steel doors in order to safeguard their secrets, but just as they relax inside their fortress, they look around to see Saltzberg quietly scooping up their files. He's creative, smart, and determined, deftly using every tool at his disposal to uncover blockbuster stories that often are hiding in plain sight. Sometimes he uses charm and persuasion; other times he succeeds simply because he never gives up. To tell the story of police failures that led directly to a teenager's rape, Saltzberg filed dozens of public record requests—and, followed them up with no fewer than 22 appeals to the Supervisor of Public Records. He makes the public records laws work as intended, routinely making municipal lawyers look like Keystone Kops. Temporarily stonewalled in his quest for a town's vaunted investigative report,

Saltzberg found his story by using a side door: He used the law to obtain a pile of financial receipts, that led to this front-page headline: “\$17K Investigation, But No Report.” Saltzberg's reputation and derring-do are such that when he got a tip about a Glock missing from police headquarters, the police chief—knowing that resistance would be futile—simply handed over the files. If you want a master class in how to vindicate the public's Right to Know, just sit down and read Rich Saltzberg's body of work.

**2nd Place: Rowan Walrath,
Boston Business Journal
'Out of control': Fear, confusion among
Biogen employees in days after
superspreader meetings**

In the early days of COVID's spread, the Boston Business Journal wrested Department of Health data and illustrated how a Biogen conference became a super-spreader event. Unfortunately, the piece falls into a common trap: It spends too much time bragging about how the records were obtained, and not enough explaining the significance of what the documents revealed.

**3rd Place: Courtney Lamdin, Seven Days
Seven Days Files Open Meeting Complaint
Against Burlington City Council**

Sometimes you just have to keep your eyes and ears open. A stray comment by a city councillor led Seven Days to discover that the board had engaged in an illegal secret meeting. Soon afterward, councilors themselves blew the whistle on their own, second, violation.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Daily

1st Place: Steve Collins, Emily Bader, Alex Lear, Sun Journal

No internet. The high cost of connecting Maine

2nd Place: Jack Rooney, The Keene Sentinel
Keene State College COVID-19 wastewater surveillance testing

3rd Place: Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times
DOWN TO A SCIENCE

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Nik DeCosta-Klipa, Boston.com
How the police reform bill would affect law enforcement use of facial recognition technology

2nd Place: Brendan Crowley, The Connecticut Examiner
Scientists Explain Bunker Found Washed up on the Connecticut Shoreline

3rd Place: Emilia Otte, The Connecticut Examiner
UConn Awarded \$40 Million Grant to Develop Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Data Network

Weekly 1

1st Place: Johnny Liesman, Provincetown Independent
“Spotter Pilots Help Scientists Study Sharks”

This story is vividly and entertainingly written, with a real sense of place and character -- it's really a swashbuckling

adventure story with diversions into science. It is thoroughly reported and includes a good mix of sources. The writing is thoughtfully crafted and full of colorful details and lively anecdotes that make the scientific and historical information really engaging for the reader.

2nd Place: John Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror
Ocean Acidification Growing Problem for Fisheries

This is a thoroughly reported and comprehensible story about a complex scientific topic, written in plain English with some helpful analogies. It has a good mix of sources and covers the topic in thoughtful detail.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Daily

1st Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy, Republican-American
Sunday Reflections

This column transported the reader to a time not so long ago, yet it feels like two lifetimes ago. A death during the COVID lockdown became a very different experience. The writer mixed the pedestrian of kitchen activities with the traditions of a funeral.

2nd Place: Mark Hayward, New Hampshire Union Leader
Sober, successful ... and sentenced

Meaningful issues given a clothesline for dirty issues to be aired. Two columns that expose injustice in wrongful attempts at justice. This was a close category to call as this writer humanizes his subjects effortlessly.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

(continued)

*3rd Place: Donald B. Keelan,
Bennington Banner
Serious columnist*

Straightforward with elegant New England simplicity. Keelan captures the people and stories of Vermont.

Specialty

*1st Place: Leslie Garrett, MV Bluedot Living
Dear Dot*

Detailed facts in what looks like a mild-mannered advice column. Dear Dot is well researched, professionally written, and the pages attractively designed adding to the friendliness of the approach.

*2nd Place: Victor Infante,
Worcester Magazine
Two Worcesteria columns*

A solid call to action for the community to not lose the home field advantage of the new diamond in the former rough.

*3rd Place: Bonnie J. Walker,
Worcester Business Journal
Outside the Box, with Bonnie J. Walker*

Weekly

*1st Place: Marvin Ott,
The Ellsworth American.
Offshore*

Explaining the most complex issues to the reader forces the writer to make choices. Their knowledge, when vast, must be parsed just so. These columns are spot on.

*2nd Place: David Rocchio, Stowe Reporter
Memories of neighbors; Will voters take
America*

All politics are local. Bringing the nation's platform closer to the reader makes for a better understanding of what the future can bring.

*3rd Place: Edward Miller,
Provincetown Independent
Provincetown Independent Serious
Columnist, Edward Miller*

Clean, local columns that I would look forward to reading each week of I lived in the community.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Daily 1

*1st Place: Marc Larocque,
The Enterprise, Brockton
Blood money Business offers cash for
plasma in Brockton*

Major corporation seeking plasma from poor people in Brockton revealed by first-rate reporting and courageous presentation.

*2nd Place: Kyle Stucker,
Fosters Daily Democrat
'Feels like forever': Dover woman's life in a
shelter one week then back in the cold*

Powerfully-told story of a 39-year old homeless woman - the details of her unfortunate circumstances and search for safety are riveting.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

(continued)

3rd Place: Wheeler Cowperthwaite, Joe Difazio, The Patriot Ledger
Duxbury controversy shines light on South Shore's history with anti-Semitism

The Ledger went deeper into this unfortunate situation and found not hatred but closed minds and lack of education had led to this embarrassment for a well-to-do community.

Daily 2

1st Place: Francesca Paris, The Berkshire Eagle
For the disabled and homebound, and their caregivers, waiting for the vaccine takes a toll

Well-done article on how handicapped are not being given consideration for vaccinations.

2nd Place: Savana Dunning, Newport Daily News
With no gay bar or space to call its own, Newport's LGBTQ community feels 'isolated'

Covid's closing of gay bars isolates further an already isolated community. Good job.

3rd Place: Jeannette Hinkle, Cape Cod Times
Colliding crises: COVID, lack of affordable housing

More are turning to mobile homes to live because of crunch of housing market during Covid.

Weekly

1st Place: Monica Benevides and Grant Welker, Worcester Business Journal
Rich dreams, poor dreams

Housing discrimination study in Worcester shows Black people being denied mortgage loans at twice the rate as whites and other groups.

2nd Place: Kris Olson, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly
SJC again asked to end medical parole blockade

Mass Lawyers Weekly on SJC's decision upholding compassion paroles for sick inmates

3rd Place: Noah Asimow, Louisa Hufstader, Vineyard Gazette

Homelessness on Martha's Vineyard
Homeless shelter closing on Nantucket but good for the paper to stay on the story until some island relief was identified.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Douglas Hook, MassLive
In the wake of violence
Bereavement program in Springfield brings reforms to people struck by gun violence.

2nd Place: Roberta Baker, Granite State News Collaborative
Outside all winter in N.H. and the Lakes Region, unsheltered homelessness rises
Considerate look at those who are living homeless in NH and northern New England.

3rd Place: Julia Werth, The Connecticut Examiner
Adoptions Drop By Half as Connecticut Copes with COVID

Terrific, eyeopening piece

SPECIAL SECTION OR EDITORIAL SUPPLEMENT

Combined

1st Place: **Kyra Steck and staff, The Martha's Vineyard Times**
Voices on Racism
Powerful section.

2nd Place: **Seven Days**
Voters' Guide 2020
Great resource for community members.

3rd Place: **PBN Staff,**
Providence Business News
PBN Giving Guide 2020

Daily

1st Place: **staff, The Day, New London**
Life in the time of pandemic
The staff of The Day went all out on this section. Excellent section.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Combined

1st Place: **Staff, Telegram & Gazette**
Play Ball (opening of Polar Park)

2nd Place: **Mike Mandell & Ashley Carter,**
The Ellsworth American.
Legends & Lore Tournament Section

3rd Place: **Laurie Los Lee,**
The Standard-Times
Sports

SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Daily 1

1st Place: **Deb Cram, Portsmouth Herald**
Goal
Strong goal action

2nd Place: **Marc Vasconcellos,**
The Enterprise, Brockton
Great throw
Well done!

3rd Place: **Marc Vasconcellos,**
The Enterprise, Brockton
Ground ball
Funny Image

Daily 2

1st Place: **Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times**
flying tag
Out!

2nd Place: **Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times**
Called Safe
Nice image

3rd Place: **Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times**
spike
Nice

Weekly 1

1st Place: **Gordon Miller, Stowe Reporter**
Baseball, tennis plays for title
Strong Peak action!

2nd Place: **Robin Chan,**
Old Colony Memorial
Eye on the Ball
Great action!

SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

(continued)

3rd Place: Robin Chan, Weymouth News

Eye on the Puck

Eye on the puck!

Weekly 2

*1st Place: Steve James,
Addison County Independent
Eagle softball 8070.jpg
SAFE! Strong action*

*2nd Place: Mike Mandell,
The Ellsworth American.
Taking her shot*

Putting your all in it

*3rd Place: Mark Alan Lovewell,
Vineyard Gazette
Nick Pecararo goes all out in the long jump
Nice*

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Combined

*1st Place: Mike Walsh, The Berkshire Eagle
Powder report*

*1st Place: Matt Vautour, MassLive
Celtics and UMass Hockey Columns*

*2nd Place: Phil Stacey, The Salem News
Phil Stacey columns*

*3rd Place: Chris Cotillo, MassLive
Boston Red Sox columns*

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Daily 1

*1st Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News
Field Hockey Fan
Perspective!*

*2nd Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News
Never too late to celebrate
We Won!*

*3rd Place: Paul Bilodeau,
Gloucester Daily Times
"A longer wait"
Strong image*

Weekly

*1st Place: Timothy Johnson,
Vineyard Gazette
Catching the wind at Philbin Beach
Spectacular*

*2nd Place: Ken McGagh,
The Concord Journal
Goalie Gets A Kick
Nice*

*3rd Place: David Sokol, Malden Observer
Tornado
Good eye*

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Daily 1

1st Place: Laurie Los Lee,

The Standard-Times

'He is the strongest person I know': High school coach leading team during brain cancer ...

Wonderful story, filled with details and powerful quotes.

2nd Place: Chris McDaniel,

The Patriot Ledger

The Weymouth High football team has Connor Daley's back

The best sports stories are often about people behind the scenes, and this story does a phenomenal job introducing us to Connor.

3rd Place: Darvence Chery,

The Enterprise, Brockton

He was marvelous Brocktonians share stories of legendary Marvin Hagler

Well-reported story that dives deeper into the career of a legendary athlete, one that was no doubt written on deadline. Well done.

Daily 2

1st Place: Mike Walsh, **The Berkshire Eagle**

"Mercury rising across the Berkshires"

Ambitious, detailed piece of reporting that truly put me on the trail and introduced me to an interesting character in Mercury.

2nd Place: Rich Garven,

Telegram & Gazette

At home on the field

Well reported and written slice-of-life story from this time in world history. I found myself rooting for Pat Rossi.

3rd Place: Ron Chimelis, **The Republican Baseball's not-so-sweet "cup of coffee": Springfield's Bob Taylor still grateful for meager annuity.**

Terrific story that left me wanting more about this long-forgotten baseball player and its team.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Hayden Bird, **Boston.com**

How a comedy of errors cost the Red Sox Carlton Fisk and Fred Lynn in the 1980-81 offseason

Historical stories can sometimes fall flat, but this one comes alive in the retelling with great details and writing. I laughed out loud at this line: "It was as if they had suddenly been told the State of New Hampshire was up for auction."

2nd Place: Matt Vautour, **MassLive**
UMass alum draws inspiration from late father to earn spot on Team USA

This excellent piece not only introduces me to an athlete but delves deep into a complex father-daughter relationship at the biggest moment of her career. Well reported and compassionately told.

3rd Place: Tom Westerholm, **Boston.com**
Andover Celtics fan battling terminal cancer inspires fans to appreciate team with Reddit post

A gem of a find, in a place most sportswriters wouldn't think to look. It tells this dying fan's story without overwriting. Well done.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

(continued)

Weekly 1

1st Place: Biddle Duke, Stowe Reporter
On being a ski parent

This is a must read for every parent that has a child playing any kind of sport - not just skiing. This is how to act. Good lessons provided even from the most famous skiing family in America - The Cochrans.

2nd Place: David Wolcott,
Old Colony Memorial
50-FOR-50

Excellent profile on Henry Creyer Jr., a legendary teacher, coach and athletic director that helped make things happen. You can get a sense of his presence at the games and what he did for the school.

3rd Place: Tommy Gardner,
Stowe Reporter
Queen Bums

What a neat tradition for 50 years by these "Queen Bums" making sure a ritual lives on in the mountains of Vermont.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Tommy Gardner, News & Citizen
Smarts season: Scholars' Bowl thrives in virtual format

A unique look at the ultimate in high school competition with the scholar's bowl. Good writing and a sense of being there.

2nd Place: Grant Welker,
Worcester Business Journal
The only game in town

A real inside look at how a sports business, the Worcester Bravehearts, is able to keep

operating a baseball team in a COVID environment. Solid reporting.

3rd Place: Calli Remillard,
The Falmouth Enterprise
Falmouth Softball Club Gives Girls A Place To Play And Grow

A look at how to revitalize a dead sport like softball that has lived in the shadows of boys' baseball in Falmouth. And it worked!

SPORTS SECTION

Daily

1st Place: Staff, The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Eagle Sports Plus, Feb. 6-7, 2021

2nd Place: Staff, The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Eagle Sports Plus, Jan. 2-3, 2021

3rd Place: Kyle Grabowski,
Daily Hampshire Gazette
UMass hockey national championship coverage

News Service or Online

1st Place: Staff, Boston.com
Boston.com Sports

Weekly

1st Place: Dean Geddes,
The Inquirer and Mirror
Nantucket Race Week

2nd Place: Joe McConnell,
Melrose Free Press
Melrose Free Press sports section

3rd Place: Mike Mandell,
The Ellsworth American.
Ellsworth American Sports

SPORTS STORY

Daily 1

1st Place: Greg Dudek, The Patriot Ledger
At Stony Brook, Asiah Dingle plays through the heartache of losing her father

2nd Place: Christopher Detwiler, The Keene Sentinel
Hot bats

3rd Place: Steven Sanchez, Taunton Daily Gazette
PERFECT SEASON Taunton High softball team wins sixth state title

Daily 2

1st Place: Jen Toland, Telegram & Gazette
'Fitting' tribute for late HC rower

2nd Place: Mike Walsh, The Berkshire Eagle
Western Mass Warriors barnstorm throughout state to find competition for local high schoolers

3rd Place: Mike Walsh, The Berkshire Eagle
"COVID no match for Josh community"

3rd Place: Jen Toland, Telegram & Gazette
'We love you, Cooz'

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Tom Westerholm, Boston.com
UConn basketball: How Milton native Caroline Ducharme became one of the nation's top prospects

2nd Place: Brian Robb, MassLive
Kemba Walker trade scenarios for Celtics

3rd Place: Chris Cotillo, MassLive
Eovaldi was Red Sox's best pitcher in 2021, living up to \$68M deal

Weekly 1

1st Place: Joe McConnell, Saugus Advertiser
Saugus' Serino family honored by complex naming

2nd Place: Ryan Fitzgerald, Provincetown Independent
"Soccer Players Face a New Game"

3rd Place: Joe McConnell, The Danvers Herald
NFL Draft history made in Danvers

Weekly 2

1st Place: Andy Kirkaldy, Addison County Independent
Gritty Eagles earn their three-peat in shootout

2nd Place: Tommy Gardner, News & Citizen PA/Stowe
baseball win title behind pitching

3rd Place: Tommy Gardner, News & Citizen
Court adjourned: Raiders cap perfect tennis season

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Daily 1

1st Place: **Hannah Schroeder, The Keene Sentinel**
Alstead flood damage
well, composed spot news providing information and perspective in one strong image. Well done!

2nd Place: **Ken McGagh, Milford Daily News, The Holliston Crash**
strong news image showing crash damage and faces in one image,

3rd Place: **Carol Lollis, Daily Hampshire Gazette**
Cherry Trees
well done image

Daily 2

1st Place: **Glenn Russell, VTDigger.org**
Demonstration confrontation
One Hell of a spot news image! My congratulations!!

2nd Place: **Jim Shannon, Republican-American**
Waterbury home ablaze
Strong Fire Image

3rd Place: **Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette**
Jaques Avenue fatal fire
Good fire image

Weekly

1st Place: **Robin Chan, Hanover Mariner**
Beat The Heat
Strong image Well done

2nd Place: **Jen Manell, The Harvard Press**
Honoring an icon
Well done

3rd Place: **David Sokol, Ipswich Chronicle**
Smoky House
Interesting image

SPOT NEWS STORY

Daily

1st Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times**
Lobster diver swallowed by humpback whale
It would be easy to give this first place based just on the oddity of it, but the writing and reporting secure its place as the number one finisher. With interviews from experts alongside comments from friends and relatives of the unfortunate diver, the story is a compelling and entertaining read.

2nd Place: **Brad Petrishen, Telegram & Gazette**
Rep. McGovern: 'This is not a protest. It is a terrorist attack on our democracy'
This brings telephone interviews to a whole new level! The fact that this reporter could talk to the local congressman in real time during the Jan. 6 insurrection speaks to the respectful working relationship between a newspaper and a source. The story helps the reader envision the chaos that was unfolding during that fateful day.

SPOT NEWS STORY

(continued)

3rd Place: Mary Whitfill, The Patriot Ledger
Everything we know about the robbery, chase and fatal police shooting in Quincy
Great job by an enterprising reporter piecing together the events that led to police shooting and killing a gunman. The story dramatically laid out the sequence of events in the multi-town chase and robbery with interviews from officials as well as some onlookers.

Weekly

1st Place: Olga Peters, The Commons
Andrew arrested for federal financial crimes

The Commons is to be congratulated for the thorough account of the arrest of a local educator on federal fraud charges in New York City. It laid out the tangled and complicated web of financial misdoings that seemingly ensnared Seth Andrew in a comprehensive and understandable fashion.

2nd Place: Greg Ryan,
Boston Business Journal
Coverage of Colonial Hotel Covid-19 violations

It's bad enough that the Colonial Hotel in Gardner flouted the state regulations setting limits on attendance during Covid, but to have one of the events linked to the general manager makes it all that much worse. This is solid work that required some digging, and the result is a well-written and researched story that was so topical during the earlier stages of the pandemic.

3rd Place: Brian Bushard, Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror
An Explosion – Then Complete Devastation

This fire story covers all the bases with thorough reporting, interviews with neighbors and people on the scene who helped dig the victim out from under the rubble. Rounding it out are a spectacular photo showing the fire fully involved and a sidebar on how to watch out for a potential propane leak.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Daily

1st Place: Jonathan Phelps,
New Hampshire Union Leader
Lifting spirits at MHT

Tightly written stories about a significant development for a large, regional airport. Reporter adds lots of good-value information and context to what is an important topic, but a topic that could otherwise be dry and uninteresting. Story is not overburdened with specifics, just good information that answers questions a reader might have, and that dives into how this development is vital to the airport's improved fortunes and future and how the adding of this service can influence the New England market. Few wasted words in these stories; the reporter and editor(s) did not try to stretch the stories beyond what they were. Thorough journalism.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

(continued)

2nd Place: Francesca Paris,

The Berkshire Eagle

The time we saved in the Berkshires (and are still saving) with remote work

A good story built largely on statistical data, but interesting data. Sometimes, it's the quality of the story idea that makes a story. Yes, in a perfect scenario, this piece could benefit from putting forward some human faces to share anecdotally what this work-commuting change has meant to them, the data is interesting and explained in simple terms. This data existed; this reporter went out and got it and shared it with readers in an easy, relatable way. So, kudos for that.

3rd Place: Darvence Chery,

The Enterprise, Brockton

'A concentration of high crash areas in Brockton' City among highest in state for ...

A newsworthy grim-numbers story that does not go beyond where it needs to and told through the emotions of family that have lost loved ones to these kinds of fatalities. Stories like these require a different touch sometimes. Reporter sticks to the core premise without over-dramatizing the findings of a report, but still noting the seriousness of the problem. There is more to this story that should be pursued, but for another day. In that respect, reporter and editor got it right.

Weekly

1st Place: Nancy Lavin, PBN Staff,

Providence Business News

A Routing Interest: Downtown busing overhaul pits riders, other groups against RIDOT

Well thought out, well written and well presented cover story and related editorial. Story written with just the right amount of background and context. Breezy, stay-out-of-the-way writing makes the issue(s) easy to understand and to follow. Good use of attention-getting pull quotes, from both sides. Editorial is equally concise and expressive. To wit: "For the project to move forward, RIDOT and its partner, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, need to show at a public hearing why critics are wrong." Good, solid, civic-centered journalism on so many levels.

2nd Place: Olga Peters, The Commons
Bus-eating roads and other mud season adventures

A well-written, well-edited, and wonderfully headlined story. Mud-season reporting taken to a new, ranging level, including water-quality legislation and impact. Good context (2,600 pounds of gravel to stabilize muddier spots in town); good description ("a good-humored tone in his voice.") Could have been so much less; instead, writer, editor and page-designer made it so much more!

3rd Place: Lucia Maffei,

Boston Business Journal

Mass. push for Uber/Lyft drivers to become employees

Strong, stick-to-it coverage on a timely, topical and compelling issue with important implications. The subject matter contains much process and procedure (lawmakers, courts, other policy-makers), but I like that this thread of stories is balanced with the human side of the issue, including small worker profiles. Author's work is a real service to readers and those on both sides of the issue.

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Weekly 2

1st Place: Staff, Vineyard Gazette
vineyardgazette.com

The Vineyard Gazette's website during the pandemic, especially the continuously updated list of what is open, was a great service to the community. The Time Machine, an interactive archive with extensive stories and photos is a rare treat!

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION - OF A NICHE PRODUCT

Combined

1st Place: Greg Popa, Stowe Reporter
Stowe Magazine

2nd Place: David Pollard, VT Ski & Ride
Vermont Ski + Ride Spring 2021 Issue – Design

3rd Place: Polly Mikula, Jason Mikula,
Krista Johnston, The Mountain Times
GRIP

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION - OF A PRINT NEWSPAPER

Daily

1st Place: The Berkshire Eagle
The Berkshire Eagle, July 17-18, 2021

2nd Place: The Republican
Sunday Republican February 14, 2021

3rd Place: The Berkshire Eagle
The Berkshire Eagle, May 29-30, 2021

Specialty

1st Place: Christina Grogan and Kristina
Walser, Boston Business Journal
April 30, 2021 issue

2nd Place: Mitchell Hayes, Worcester
Business Journal
Worcester Business Journal

Weekly

1st Place: The Ellsworth American.
The Ellsworth American

2nd Place: Seven Days
Sound Effects issue

3rd Place: Chris Kelly, Susan Abbott,
Provincetown Independent
**Provincetown Independent Overall Design
and Presentation, 4-22-21**

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION – OF A SPECIAL SECTION

Daily

1st Place: Maryellen Gale,
The Keene Sentinel
Extraordinary Women

2nd Place: The Berkshire Eagle
Introducing 46, Nov. 7, 2020

**OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION –
OF A SPECIAL SECTION**

(continued)

*3rd Place: The Republican
Outlook 2021
Specialty*

*1st Place: Christina Grogan,
Boston Business Journal
2021 Business of Pride special section*

*2nd Place: Mitchell Hayes,
Worcester Business Journal
WBJ 40 Under Forty, Class of 2020*

Weekly

*1st Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times
Voices on Racism*

*2nd Place: Seven Days
Pandemic All-Stars*

*3rd Place: The Ellsworth American.
Out & About*

INNOVATOR AWARD

Combined

*1st Place: Staff, The Keene Sentinel
Business Buy-in Readership Program*

*2nd Place: Liz White, Richie Rathsack,
Record-Journal
Record-Journal Latino Communities
Reporting Lab*

*3rd Place: Staff, Vineyard Gazette
175th Anniversary of the Gazette*

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Combined

*1st Place: Emilia Otte,
The Connecticut Examiner*

Emilia Otte: Rookie of the Year

Tackled difficult, investigative pieces thoroughly while presenting the stories in an engaging and easy to digest way. Her feature stories showed writerly touches, and came to life through the people she introduced to the reader

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Daily 1

*1st Place: The Patriot Ledger
Patriot Ledger General Excellence*

Good depth and breadth of local coverage. This newspaper cares about its readers. Strong editorial writing. Eclectic and deep features (GetOut) section. Good mix of local and national sports.

*2nd Place: The Greenfield Recorder
March 4 2021 and March 22 2021 edition*

Stunning color photography. crisp clear writing. The whole feel of the paper is crisp and clear, vibrant. Lively opinion page.

*3rd Place: Gloucester Daily Times
Complete issues of March 3 and 29, 2021*

Not one but two local editorials and a local column. Broad state house coverage. Lively local features and solid local sports coverage.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

(continued)

Daily 2

**1st Place: Staff, The Berkshire Eagle
Berkshire Eagle, General Excellence**

All the newspapers in this category serve their communities well, but The Berkshire Eagle stand apart for engaging the reader on every page. "Time on site" is a digital analytic, but the Eagle must score well in this category for its print publication as well.

**2nd Place: Republican-American
General Excellence**

The Republican-American continues to publish a comprehensive, informative and engaging newspaper that proves it knows its communities and readers.

**3rd Place: The Republican
Sunday Republican February 14, 2021
Republican Thursday March 4, 2021**

At a time when a lot of local newspapers have become ghosts of themselves, The Republican continues to serve its readers with comprehensive news, sports, business, and arts and entertainment coverage.

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place: Staff, Boston.com
Boston.com**

**2nd Place: Staff, The Connecticut Mirror
The Connecticut Mirror**

Specialty

**1st Place: Boston Business Journal
Staff, Boston Business Journal
Boston Business Journal**

**2nd Place: PBN Staff, Providence Business
News
PBN-General Excellence**

**3rd Place: Lisa Lynn, David Pollard, Angelo
Lynn, VT Ski & Ride
Vermont Ski + Ride Magazine**

Weekly 1

1st Place: Mount Desert Islander
Top-notch in all respects important to readers of community weeklies. Exceptional looks: Smart layout. Sharp color in excellent photos. High Page One story count. Good mix of features with valuable community news Lots of "news you can use." Healthy classified ad section, well laid-out. Impressive Dream Home section. Superior "out & about" special section that covers the gamut of activities in an attractive, lively layout.

**2nd Place: The Inquirer and Mirror
General Excellence Editorial**
The Inquirer & Mirror reflects through its coverage overall a strong sense of what this community is like, and how its residents view their community, a valuable perspective for any community newspaper. Photos and their display are a strong point.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

(continued)

2nd Place: The Vermont Standard

The Vermont Standard

Fulfills a mission as a traditional country editor's weekly. Wealth of community news of all varieties; community-friendly photos and features, full of names and faces. Contains a smorgasbord of paper-of-record news you can use. Strong sports section. Inviting This Week layout. Inventive Pictures in the Pandemic feature. Well-illustrated and informational Destination Vermont special section, so full of ads -- as is the entire newspaper -- that it seems to give the lie to the conventional wisdom that no one advertises in newspapers anymore. Comprehensive news coverage of town meetings and elections in the mandatory edition.

3rd Place: Provincetown Independent

The Provincetown Independent is tangibly reflective of the culture and people in its community. Whimsy, wit and difference-making often pervade its writing and editing and even its layout, beginning with its Page One descriptor as "Unchained news for Outer Cape Cod." Obituaries are more personal and character-centric, never more so than with the obituary and appreciation for Joe Bones. The "Arts and Minds" section is lush in looks and content. Rich color photos and cartoons abound. Even police stories display humor, such as the "True Crime" account of the poop on the pier incident.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Seven Days

General Excellence

I appreciated the balance between positive coverage on the cover piece yet the realistic coverage community's woes. (But I must ask how does the publisher explain carrying a cigarette ad on its inside pages?!?)

2nd Place: The Ellsworth American.

The Ellsworth American

The news hole appeared larger than the others in its category and it was nicely divided between coverage off the community such as police, court and developments at town hall with "brights," which told of the community's accomplishments.

3rd Place: Vineyard Gazette

Vineyard Gazette General Excellence

The VG conveys a confident command of its community with its strong writing and terrific layout. The main piece on the sale of Jackie Kennedy's island estate was well-done, and the photos that accompanied it made for a terrific package.



