

INSIDE: COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES COMMENTS

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS



NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION



Advertiser Campaign

Combined

1st Place: Christy Lynn, Elsie Parini, staff
Addison County Independent

Bradford Kitchen & Bath

The power of a testimonial. Consumers looking for services love ads like this. Powerful and strategic campaign.

2nd Place: Michelle Johnson

The Republican

Westfield International Air Show

Patriotic, inspiring layout colors with dynamic air show images make this campaign successful!

3rd Place: Katy Foote, Staff

Addison County Independent

Hare and the Dog Advertiser Campaign

Elegant, upscale, and smart set of ads for the HARE and the DOG campaign. A pleasure to review.

Automotive Display Ad

Combined

1st Place: Kristen Braley

News & Citizen

Lamoille Valley Chevy

Personalized with dog image and an engaging ad to review information.

2nd Place: Jorgen Taylor

The Republican

Artioli Dodge - Truck Month Ad

Type works well with truck content. Strong auto display ad.

3rd Place: Staff

Ellsworth American, The

Downeast Toyota Weeklies

Effective, gridded auto layout helps define particular styles / prices.

Best Health Ad

Combined

1st Place: Jesse Norford, Staff
Addison County Independent

ACHHH Health Ad

Strong superhero visual. Outstanding image as it relates to healthcare. Solid winner.

2nd Place: Christy Lynn, Staff

Addison County Independent

Porter Pediatrics

Nice and appealing gridded design with portraits and graphic appeal.

3rd Place: Katerina Hrdlicka Werth

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Family Dentistry - healthy mouth

Fun, attention-getting image drives this dental health ad!

Best Holiday Ad

Combined

1st Place: Jan Kenney

Williston Observer

Chef's Corner To-Go Christmas

Really attractive restaurant holiday ad, with specials highlighted, great photography and insets. Great ad!

2nd Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Butcher Brothers

Great photography dominates this fantastic holiday greeting ad. Patriotic, with well thought-out typography.

3rd Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Precision Pilates Ad

Stylish illustration and clean, clear type make this a very pleasing holiday greeting ad!

Best Idea for Generating Revenue

Combined

1st Place: George Clondas

Falmouth Enterprise, The

OnCape Magazine - Dining Guide

Nicely-designed ON CAPE DINING online magazine with great ads throughout. Can refer to this all year!

2nd Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik, Jen Power

The Inquirer and Mirror

Dining Out Guide

Brilliant one page WEEKLY DINING guide really encapsulates everything you need to know. Great design too!

3rd Place: Staff

Day, The

Local Eats

LOCAL EATS restaurant guide is bold, colorful with great ads /menus / etc.

Best Integrated Campaign for an Advertiser

Combined

1st Place: Kristen Braley, Katerina Hrdlicka

Werth

Stowe Reporter

Ferro Jewelers

These jewelry ads are eye-catching and effectively draw the reader in both the print and online ads.

2nd Place: Mary Sharpe

The Inquirer and Mirror

Race for Open Space

This was an effective promotion and an excellent use of all available tools. Using QR codes for print ads and online registration for electronic ads resulting in a sold out race.

Best Sponsored Content

Combined

1st Place: Terry Williams

The Keene Sentinel

Monadnock Region Family Resource Guide

This FAMILY RESOURCE GUIDE from the Keene Sentinel is a great keeper. Well-designed, color coded, packed with information to refer to all year long. Great guide.

2nd Place: Staff

Day, The

Serving you Since

SERVING YOU SINCE.....is a great resource for local businesses. Focusing on length of time and local contributions, it highlights businesses wonderfully and clearly.

3rd Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

New Year, New You

New Year, New You is an effective way to engage readers with local editorial content and effective corresponding ads.

Events

Combined

1st Place: Staff

The Keene Sentinel

Radically Rural

Hands down this event wins first place. This huge undertaking by a small newspaper gaining nationwide interest is spectacular. An extraordinary example of what a "can do" attitude can accomplish.

2nd Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

Political Events - House Debates

Terrific initiative by a local newspaper informing and engaging citizens in the political process. Well done!

3rd Place: Susan Plaisance, Ahmad Yassir

Bennington Banner

Trunk or Treat - Bennington Banner 2023

Outstanding community event!

Local Display Ad (Black & White)

Combined

1st Place: Megan Connor-Thomas

The Republican

Chicopee Schools

Clean. Clear. Simple message. Great use of small space B/W ad.

2nd Place: Katerina Hrdlicka Werth

News & Citizen

Healthy Mouth - Stowe Family Dentistry

Fun image dominates this small b/w ads. Humor makes it effective.

3rd Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

Rimrocks

Clear offer with photo of restaurant in ad! Nice small b/w local display ad.

Local Display Ad (Color)

Combined

1st Place: Katerina Hrdlicka Werth

Stowe Reporter

Country Store on Main

Elegant. Quiet. Well-designed with appropriate typography and a simple, classy visual. Love it.

2nd Place: Kristen Braley

News & Citizen

Lamoille Valley Dance Academy

Well-designed banner ad, exemplifying advertiser focus.

Simple and effective!

3rd Place: Nicole Martini

Day, The

Montville Summer Camp

Fun, pop-art comic book style...reflective of customer base. Right on!

Local Online Ad

Combined

1st Place: Heather Eriole

Mount Desert Islander

Bar Harbor Coin & PMX Digital Campaign

2nd Place: Ashley Carter, Chausa Tra

Ellsworth American, The

Stanley Subaru Teacher Appreciation Flydown

3rd Place: Katy Foote, Staff

Addison County Independent

Otter East - Digital

Most Creative Use of Small Print Space

Combined

1st Place: Kristen Braley

News & Citizen

Join our Team - MSI

Modern, eye-catching design with great type and design elements. Draws attention to all information properly. A GREAT small space ad.

2nd Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

Addiction Solution

Serious, hard-hitting visual with clear message and QR code for immediate reach-out. Highly effective ad.

3rd Place: Megan Connor-Thomas

The Republican

Polish American Citizens Club - Halloween Dance

FUN, timely, clear ad with information presented cleverly.

Cute!

Niche Publication

Combined

1st Place: Greg Popa

Stowe Reporter

Stowe magazine

Slick. Gorgeous design from the cover illustrations to the interior page spreads and typography. A clear winner!

2nd Place: Jane McTeigue, Nicole Fullin

Vineyard Gazette

Island Weddings: Winter-Spring 2023

Stylish, beautiful photography and a great flow!

3rd Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Nantucket Restaurant Guide

The Nantucket Restaurant Guide is so well-designed, functional with features, listings and menus. It's irresistible.

Pure Advertising Niche Publication

Combined

1st Place: Katerina Hrdlicka Werth, Greg Popa

Stowe Reporter

Stowe/Green Mountains Magazine

Stunningly beautiful photos and sumptuous design make this publication a gem for the eyes. Features about couples and other thematic copy punctuate those attributes and add value for the equally excellent ads. Directory at the back of the book is helpful.

2nd Place: McKinley Sanders

Vineyard Gazette

Premium Properties

Attractive, informative ads, as the competing entries also have. But this entry also enhances its value via the summary information about the real estate market on the Vineyard, broken out by town. Adds a news touch to this ad vehicle.

3rd Place: McKinley Sanders

Vineyard Gazette

Holiday Catalog 2022

Purely a collection of ads, with a lively introduction. Ads are varied, artful, attractive and interesting. "A" for looks.

Real Estate Display Ad

Combined

1st Place: Ashley Carter

Mount Desert Islander

Swan Agency Real Estate

These well-organized, attractive display ads highlight things like MEET THE BROKER, EXPERIENCE. Great features among the listings.

2nd Place: Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

5 Cudweed Road

Dramatic photography drives this dream home display ad. Impactful and informational. Great ad.

3rd Place: Jesse Norford, Staff

Addison County Independent

Berkshire Hathaway LDFLA - RE ad

Beautifully designed real estate ad featuring some great homes! Clean and clear and attractive display ad!



Special Section / Advertising Supplement

Combined

1st Place: Michelle Johnson

The Republican

CRQ Magazine - Summer

Topical CANNIBIS REVIEW publication is packed with colorful, nice ads, has a great-looking contents page and is clear, well-designed and a keeper!

2nd Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

RIDE

RIDE is a vibrant, easy-to-read publication with great stories, an activity calendar, etc. Plus maps and profiles! Nice supplement.

3rd Place: Jenna Hunsinger, Sue Leggett, Staff

Addison County Independent

Worship - Special Section

This 2023 WORSHIP DIRECTORY is clean, clear and well-done. Something to keep around to refer to continually. Nice photography and design elements throughout!

Themed Multiple Advertiser Page(s)

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

Midnight Stroll - Themed pages

Festive, holiday-themed Midnight Stroll multi-advertiser ad shows all participating retailers, some with display ads. Nice type and images.

2nd Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

Halloween Parade and Family Costume Contest

Traditional and scary. Great townwide promotion. Nicely designed.

3rd Place: Megan Connor-Thomas

The Republican

Automotive Care Gang Page

Clean, clear effective AUTO CARE multi-advertiser ad with a DID YOU KNOW editorial feature imbedded, which increases interest and readership.

Advertiser Promotion for Special Section

Combined

1st Place: Katerina Hrdlicka Werth

News & Citizen

Get Ready to RIDE

Beautiful design with gorgeous photo to promote the special RIDE section.

Advertising Sales Media Kit

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Day, The

DMG Media Kit

Fantastic, varied group of calls to advertise in THE DAY. Visually interesting design for each.

2nd Place: Jenna Hunsinger

Addison County Independent

Independent Digital Marketing - Media kit

Informational and wonderful illustrated with modern images and clear examples, etc.

3rd Place: Katerina Hrdlicka Werth

Stowe Reporter

Media Kit

THE RATE CARD. Clear, concise, thorough. Well-designed and attractive to have as a resource.

Audience Building Promotion

Combined

1st Place: Kristen Braley

News & Citizen

Get Connected

Dynamic, attention-getting visual drives this piece. Clean, clear text. Fantastic!

2nd Place: David Fickett

Ellsworth American, The

Digital Subscription Promos

Fun, engaging promo piece. Text and photos work well together. A fun, happy digital promo!

3rd Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

The Stowe Kids Report

Informative, youth-oriented mini newspaper. Kudos to promoting young people in journalism.

Classified Promotion

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

Help Wanted Pages - Classified ad promotion

These promotional ads are eye-catching and effective. Including QR codes in the printed ad is a smart way to utilize both the online and print campaigns.

Contests

Combined

1st Place: Jenna Hunsinger, staff

Addison County Independent

Garden Game - Contest

This contest checks all the boxes - it gives the sponsor wide exposure, and the gift cards ensure that customers will come to their store. It also engages readers through the entire growing season!

Best Ad Designer

Combined

1st Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich Local News Ad Designer

Great batch of smart, interesting designs, some with photos, some illustrations - all with great typography. Nice group of ads!

2nd Place: Sarah Pope

Addison County Independent

Sarah Pope, Designer

Sarah's ads show a varied approach to clean and clear ad design. Always readable and engaging.

3rd Place: Elsie Lynn Parini - ad designer

Addison County Independent

Elsie Lynn Parini, Best designer

Mostly photo-driven ads showing a great command of design with headlines and type. "We're Here" ad is gorgeous typographically.

Best Digital Revenue Building Idea

Combined

1st Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Cyber Monday

Creative use of Cyber Monday special promotion to increase subscriptions!



Excellence in Revenue Collaboration and Partnerships

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

Field Days Exhibitors Handbook

An extraordinary collaboration and successful partnership that also reaches the entire community!

2nd Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

Nantucket High School Whaler Sponsor and Partnership

Advertising General Excellence

Combined

1st Place: Sean Burke, Douglas Anderson

The Keene Sentinel

Monadnock Table

Monadnock Table online magazine is as crisp and clean as its print version! Gorgeous design and wonderful features....looks great and easy to read!



2nd Place: Elyse Thornton

New Boston Beacon

New Boston Beacon is lively and colorful with a masthead embedded with history. Packed with local ads and some great feature articles, this is a great venue for advertising!



3rd Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Reporter

A classic masthead and wonderful paper, Stowe Reporter is a fantastic and engaging paper to host a plethora of ads, contests, etc.

Advertising Director / Manager of the Year

Combined

1st Place: Douglas Anderson

The Keene Sentinel

Douglas Anderson, Monadnock Table



Arts & Entertainment Page or Section

College

**1st Place: Peyton McKenzie, Neha Seenarine,
David Matos**

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Arts and Life Volume 93, Issue 12

This section is robust with content all locally written. Great layout and use of color with unique illustrations.

2nd Place: Vaughn Vial

The Bowdoin Orient

Bowdoin Orient Arts & Entertainment Section

The section has good locally written content. Loved the Portrait of an Artist feature. Could benefit from more interesting layout and use of photos and graphics.

3rd Place: Nicole Dumont

The Equinox

Spring Concert Revival

Well written story with a great layout, photos and use of visuals. Would have liked to see more examples of the A&E content or section.

Editorial

College

1st Place: Equinox Staff

The Equinox

Blue lights showing red flags

This editorial spotlighted an issue of campus safety. Notably university officials quickly fixed the problem. Well done.

2nd Place: The Gatepost Editorial Board

The Gatepost

"The Gatepost Editorial: Let these logos go"

Well-done with nice humorous touches.

3rd Place: Analise Bruno

The Daily Free Press

Where'd all the empathy go? — BU and its entitlement crisis

I like editorial writers who aren't afraid to criticize their readers. Nicely done.

Feature Story

College

1st Place: Payton Renegar

The Daily Free Press

Soapy Shayna: the BU student behind the OnlyFans pseudonym

This was really well done. It took a hot-button issue, and brought it home, all while retaining the subject's humanity and dignity. There are a lot of professional journalists who could benefit from the author's sense of empathy and balance!

2nd Place: Tim Bruns

The Equinox

From the Congo to Keene

Great story, one which really left me wanting to know more about the subject and his backstory.

2nd Place: Rhi Watkins

The New Hampshire

Shutting down the last large coal plant in New England

This one took me by surprise! I thought it was going to be a dry news feature, but it was fun to read and outright gripping at times!

3rd Place: Sophie Burchell

The Bowdoin Orient

The long haul: students navigate long Covid

This is an excellent health feature, one that takes a big issue and makes it immediately relevant..

3rd Place: Rachel Erwin

Huntington News

Northeastern professor and her students transform Chestnut Hill house into experiential artwork

Vivid and evocative writing. Really captures the artistic experience from a variety of angles.

Feature Video

College

1st Place: Jack Muscatello

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Inside Fall Fest

Well done behind-the-scenes look at Fall Fest.

Front Page

College

1st Place: Staff

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

The Quinnipiac Chronicle Vol. 93, Issue 22
(*'Winnipiac'*)

A wonderful main headline and big-impact photo make this historic victory worthy of Page 1 poster treatment. Simple and effective. Well done!

2nd Place: Tim Bruns

The Equinox

Vol. 77 Issue#20

Impactful use of a file photo from Athletics of a victim of a fatal crash anchors an easily navigable front page.

3rd Place: Cloe Tarlton, Mary Henthorn, Andy Ton

The Bowdoin Orient

The Bowdoin Orient

[For the Oct. 21, 2022.] The soccer standalone anchors this simple and clear Page 1. Contrasting fonts make the tombstoned headlines at the bottom acceptable.

Graphic Illustration

College

1st Place: John Provost

The Crier

CNN town hall and finals

Witty nod to the bad timing of CNN town hall during the only reading day set aside for finals. Effective!

2nd Place: Alex Kendall

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Fast fashion and fighting fads

3rd Place: Amanda Riha

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Queer celebrities don't owe their fans disclosure

Headline Writing

College

1st Place: Troy LaFond

The Connector

Taylor Swift sleeps through "Midnights" until "3am"

Catchy play on Swift's songs.

2nd Place: Nathan Hope

The Equinox

Sex Toy Bingo comes back with a bang

3rd Place: Melanie Matts and Ronan Lambert

The New Hampshire

Bench out the stigma: Athletes struggle with mental health too

In-depth Reporting

College

1st Place: Cat Murphy

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Accessibility series

This series is an excellent example of in-depth reporting that effected change. The reporter supported her findings with strong data that clearly showed that the university was grossly noncompliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Cat Murphy is a force to be reckoned with – and Quinnipiac is better off because of her.

In-depth Reporting *continued*

2nd Place: Staff

The New Hampshire

TNH Midterm Election Coverage

This midterm election package is incredibly detailed - offering information on everything from how issues affect college students to candidate interviews to expert analyses to how/where to vote. The reporting is comprehensive, clear, and relevant. An excellent body of work.

3rd Place: Leighah Beausoleil

The Gatepost

"FSU's total undergraduate enrollment down 8% since last year"

This is a detailed look at the declining enrollment at Framingham State University and other state universities in Massachusetts. The story is supported by alarming in-depth charts whose bar and linear graphs should motivate college administrators throughout the Bay State to act now. Kudos to the reporter for investing so much effort into the story.

Multimedia Reporting

College

1st Place: Staff

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Lamont, Stefanowski talk jobs, economy at QU

The staff of the Quinnipiac Chronicle takes first place in this category for their reporting, video, and photography covering the gubernatorial race for the University community.

2nd Place: Staff

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Hamden Rallies for Hometown Heroes after men's hockey wins championship

3rd Place: Nicholas Calvino, Morgan French

The Currier Times

Oh, the Critters You Might See on the Curry Campus!

News Story

College

1st Place: Daniela Valdivia-Terres

NECC Observer

Students and faculty opposed to removal of student resources position

This article put the spotlight on the college administration's decision to eliminate a staff position and took a closer look at the impact it would have on students. A thoroughly-reported and well-researched story.

2nd Place: Cat Murphy, Daniel Passapera

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Quinnipiac president buys \$3.85 million home in Arizona

This wonderfully written story provides insight into the real estate dealings of the college president. The two writers covered this timely topic with aplomb. Their story included interesting details, unexpected insights, and plenty of links to sources that backed up their reporting.

3rd Place: Sonel Cutler

Huntington News

Northeastern dining workers agree to historic new contract with Chartwells

This story contained a lot of nice details about the dining workers on campus and gave an insider's view into their contract negotiations. Well done.

3rd Place: Emily Spatz

Huntington News

SGA passes bill calling on Northeastern to sever ties with private military companies

This well-written article explains how the student government passed a resolution calling for the university to cut ties with private defense companies that make weapons of war. An easy read about a complex topic.

Opinion Page

College

1st Place: Marc Rosenthal

The Bowdoin Orient

Bowdoin Orient Opinion Section

The Bowdoin Orient Opinion pages take first place for thought-provoking pieces that are well written and presented.

2nd Place: Kim Zappala

NECC Observer

NECC Observer opinion pages

3rd Place: McKenzie Ward

The Gatepost

"An unethical solution"

Sports Game Story

College

1st Place: Michael LaRocca

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Quinnipiac volleyball concludes historic season with valiant effort in loss to No. 1 Wisconsin
Well-written, nice turns of phrase. Perfect use of short quotes.

2nd Place: Kristen Kinzler

The Bowdoin Orient

Men's hockey crowned NESCAC Champions, earning NCAA bid

Nice job. Comprehensive. Good use of quotes. Would rather see class year as a "freshman," "sophomore," etc., but if using the year, would rather see that in parentheses ('23 - for example).

3rd Place: Amelia Ballingall, Julia Yohe

Huntington News

Northeastern reclaims keys to Beantown in historic Beanpot shootout win over Harvard
Northeastern winning should have been the lede graf. Otherwise, well-told. Gave me the feeling of being there.

Sports Story

College

1st Place: Cameron Levasseur

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Quinnipiac hockey alumni react to Bobcats' national championship win

Good work using contacts to bring additional reporting beyond the rink to a huge campus story.

2nd Place: Sam Robb O'Hagan

The Daily Free Press

'Twice as good to get half as much': Kabran Clark's journey to BU as a Black lacrosse player

3rd Place: Amelia Ballingall

Huntington News

Inside the draft: how athletes launch their professional sports careers

Online News Site

College

1st Place: Staff

The New Hampshire

The site is easy to navigate and the menu items are accessible from any page. Like how the story's in each section expand across with graphics as you scroll the simple menu. Good student, campus and NH and world content, use of white space and graphics, a

2nd Place: The Daily Free Press Staff

The Daily Free Press

Overall design, grid layout, ads, and white space are nicely balanced. The menus could use some updating. Like the scrolling story box on the left side of the home page. Content is a good mix of student, campus and city news.

3rd Place: Staff

The Bowdoin Orient

Great use of white space and graphic elements well placed. Like the home page layout and menu structure and then it changes on the inside pages. Good job covering campus and student news.

Feature Photo

College

1st Place: Peyton McKenzie

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Marc E. Bassy performs at Fall Fest

Nice way to photograph a concert and bring back something different.

General News Photo

College

1st Place: Nicole Dumont

The Equinox

Spring Concert revival

I like the photographer's angle. Creative and interesting lighting.

2nd Place: Madi Koesler

The Daily Free Press

2023 commencement brings joy, jeers and protest

Nice framing. Well done.

Sports Photo

College

1st Place: Daniel Passapera

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Women's soccer wins first MAAC title

Wonderful framing and a great sports feature moment.

2nd Place: Eliza Nuestro

The Daily Free Press

Terriers fall in Beanpot semifinal

Nice peak action. I would suggest a slightly tighter crop.

3rd Place: Kayla Barrett

The Equinox

Women's Volleyball advances to NCAA postseason

Clean, readable peak reaction. Well done.

Photo Series

College

1st Place: The Daily Free Press Staff

The Daily Free Press

BU Hindu Cultural Association celebrates Holi

2nd Place: Peyton McKenzie

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

QU Car Club spring show

3rd Place: Peyton McKenzie, Daniel Passapera

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Hamden celebrates Quinnipiac Men's Ice Hockey National Championship Victory

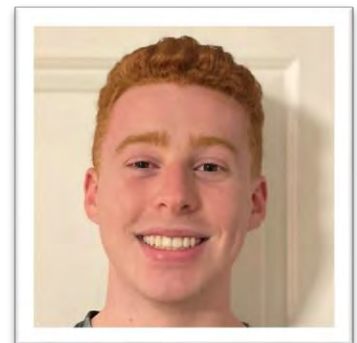
College Rising Star

College

Steven O'Hara

The Connector

UMass Lowell



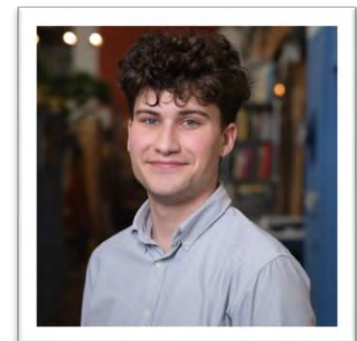
Top College Journalist

College

Lucas Dufalla

The Bowdoin Orient

Bowdoin College



New England College Newspaper of the Year

College

1st Place:

The Bowdoin Orient **Bowdoin College**

The Bowdoin Orient is a newspaper that not only covers the campus' big stories in a timely manner but also features a smart mix of features, relevant op-eds and reviews, student voices and an easy-to-digest events calendar. We enjoyed the irreverent Page 2 column that likely is the first stop for many readers when a new edition appears.



2nd Place:

The Gatepost **Framingham State University**

The Gatepost staff is covering Framingham State University well in a well-organized newspaper featuring a nice mix of news, features, arts and entertainment, editorial/op-ed and sports while including many student voices (Campus Conversations) and strong photography.



3rd Place:

The Daily Free Press **Boston University**

Although The Daily Free Press is daily only digitally now, it packages its best of the web once a month in print — and it does it well, with hard-hitting enterprise reporting, insightful commentary, and compelling photography.



Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Daily 1

1st Place: Rick Koster

Day, The

A musical journey like no other: Iraqi composer survives ISIS and brings 'The Curve' to NL
Fascinating, lyrical writing. You can almost hear the musician's music in this inspiring tale.

2nd Place: Rick Koster

Day, The

The once and future Knick: Westerly's iconic blues club turns 90 with an eye to the future
Wonderful, vivid storytelling.

3rd Place: Kristina Dorsey

Day, The

IF THE GARDE'S WALLS COULD TALK
It was like an archeological dig. Thorough, clean description. The reader can see images in the reporting and writing.

Daily 2

1st Place: Julia Ann Weekes

New Hampshire Union Leader

Controlled chaos
Wild. Deft descriptive handling of an outrageous venue.

2nd Place: Aaron Simon Gross

The Berkshire Eagle

Williamstown Theatre Festival's cabaret is back
A nicely told tale of restoration.

3rd Place: Jennifer Huberdeau

The Berkshire Eagle

Onyx the Fortuitous and the Talisman of Souls' filmed at Ventfort Hall
Multi-sourced, different voices lifts the tale above a preview interview.

Honorable Mention: Gwenn Friss

Cape Cod Times

Jung-Ho Pak breaks his silence about why he is leaving

Good, deep, wide-ranging interview gets to the essence, the driving force behind the subject.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Michael Jonas

CommonWealth Beacon

Broadening theater's reach
Provocative, groundbreaking. Strips away convention for compelling storytelling and inclusivity.

2nd Place: Kevin Slane

Boston.com

The untold story of 'The Murders Before the Marathon'
Gripping, well-told whodunit tale that is all too real.

3rd Place: Kevin Slane

Boston.com

Immersive Disney exhibit offers a dose of Disney magic in Boston
Quick, enjoyable read.

Specialty

1st Place: Meg Trogolo

Worcester Magazine

Absolutely Fabulous
Worcester Magazine writer Meg Trogolo does a nice job pulling back the curtain on the oft-misunderstood world of drag queen (and king) performances, showing how the genre has evolved and edged closer to mainstream entertainment in recent years. Before introducing her colorful cast of characters, Trogolo sets the stage with a brief primer on what observers might encounter at a typical drag show – helpful background for the uninitiated. Lots of good insight here. Lacy Sabrina, in particular, laments a growing complacency within the drag queen community when it comes to protecting hard-fought gains. Narrative would have been improved by more selective use of quotes for impact, rather than stringing together extended passages. One

other quibble: not sure why two subjects – Rory Reed, who performs as Cortana Wednesday, and Brady Greenwood, whose stage persona is Mal E. Fishn’t – were introduced under their own names while others were presented in their stage personas. This may have been a simple courtesy to the performers, but readers deserved an explanation for the distinction.

2nd Place: Sadie Leite

Worcester Business Journal

A street art revolution, paused

The better of two entries dealing with Worcester’s program to beautify its industrial landscape with urban building murals, Sadie Leite’s straightforward treatment traces the evocative landscape form since its inception in 2016 and why, more recently, organizers have embraced a major rebranding effort. She presents, clearly and without embellishment, the realities of fundraising, jurisdictional issues between the city and private property owners and challenges related to mural maintenance – all while letting readers decide for themselves whether building art is worth the time and expense. Sidebar focusing on readers’ poll helps clarify this question and explain why art matters, even in the midst of a gritty city.

3rd Place: Craig Semon

Worcester Magazine

Hendrix left a lasting impression 55 years ago at Clark University

Craig Semon demonstrates a keen appreciation for rock royalty with his retrospective on guitar legend Jimi Hendrix’ 1968 appearance at Clark University in Worcester. His ability to track down an array of individuals connected to a pair of shows 55 years ago was both impressive and fun.

Weekly 1

1st Place: Avalon Styles-Ashley

Stowe Reporter

Artist Sue Gilkey finds quiet beauty in the ordinary

Stowe Guide & Magazine writer Avalon Styles-Ashley’s feature-length portrait of Vermont artist Sue Gilkey deserves first-place honors solely on the strength of its delightful lede graf, in which Gilkey is described critically eyeballing a painting of her “pale-lashed Irish neighbor, Victor, the cow.” The resulting narrative, which presents Gilkey’s work with an almost loving reverence, can be cloying at times. But it helps readers understand the qualities which, paired with technique and technical skill, are essential to a successful artist: hard work, persistence and an open-mind. Editors likewise deserve kudos for a nice presentation which incorporates Gilkey’s paintings along with photos of the artist.

2nd Place: Rob Kiener

Stowe Reporter

Luigi Lucioni

Italian-American painter Luigi Lucioni may not be a household name outside of central Vermont, where local history buffs still consider his 1931 landscape of Stowe Village “the most recognizable painting of Stowe ever made.” But in Robert Kiener’s capable hands, readers gain a better appreciation for Lucioni’s work and why it continues to resonate in New England and beyond. With understatement, brevity, and a welcome aversion to pretension or art-speak (well, maybe just a little), Kiener traces Lucioni’s life and times by chronicling his long love affair with the Green Mountain State, where he completed his best-known works. Very professionally done.

Arts & Entertainment Reporting, *cont.*

3rd Place: Anna Popnikolova

The Inquirer and Mirror

Homage to a modern classical icon

Nice work advancing upcoming concert marking the centennial of Pulitzer Prize winning author and distinguished composer Ned Rorem, who wrote "Nantucket Songs," a collection of 10 pieces inspired by his nearly five decades on the island. Within that context, however, Anna Popnikolova's narrative struggles with focus: are we accenting Rorem's influence on contemporary classical music or championing Nantucket's Rossini Club, which will be performing the memorial concert? That said, opera singer Greta Feeney's anecdote about her first encounter with Rorem is the stuff community journalists dream about.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Sam Pollak

Provincetown Independent

Michael Cunningham's "The Hours" Unfolds on the Stage

Bravo! Multi-sourced writing that puts the reader right there in the front row.

2nd Place: David Weinstock

Addison County Independent

A different kind of audition by David Weinstock
Short, breezy, fun with impact on the reader.

3rd Place: Dan Bolles

Seven Days

Harry Bliss profile

Inciteful and illuminating long profile that holds the reader's interest. But why the surprising use of the word "fuck" several times?

Honorable Mention: Dorothea Samaha, and Eve Samaha

Provincetown Independent

Wellfleet's Ella Mae Dixon Makes Her Birdland Debut

Classy live review and interview.

Arts & Entertainment Section

Combined

1st Place: Joanne Briana-Gartner

Falmouth Enterprise, The

Enterprise Arts, Culture & Living section

This lively section includes a comprehensive calendar for locals and visitors. Lively and easy to read.

2nd Place: John D'Addario, Abraham Storer, Susan Abbott

Provincetown Independent

Arts & Minds Section, May 25, 2023

Aptly named Arts & Minds section is brimming with work from local artists. Stunning section.

3rd Place: Staff

Ellsworth American, The

Ellsworth American Arts & Leisure

What a fun section! We loved the graphic illustrations that immediately draw the reader in.

Daily

1st Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Landscapes, Aug. 13-14, 2022

Outstanding arts and entertainment section. The Berkshire Landscapes has a beautiful layout. The variety and content is captivating.

2nd Place: Staff

Republican-American

Weekend

This comprehensive section is packed with information and things to do.

3rd Place: Staff

Republican-American

Weekend, June 8

Great mix for readers.

Best Niche Publication

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

Seven Daysies 2022

I've seen a ton of Best of sections over the years and this is Best of the Best. Loved the mythical creature graphics breaking up the various categories! What a fresh new approach to bring in the reader. Cohesive, well-designed, great eye-catching pub that was a joy to read!

2nd Place: Greg Popa

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Magazine

The front cover vintage look is unique and certainly grabs the reader's attention. You've got some great photographers who know their way around a camera, and editors with fresh ideas that really know how to showcase your area. Advertisements are equally outstanding! This was a close second.

3rd Place: Tina Miller, Connie Berry

The Martha's Vineyard Times

EDIBLE-VINEYARD-IN-SEASON-2023

Edible stands out from the crowd with stunning design, amazing photography, advertising layout and headlines that pop! Overall style is clean, crisp and modern, giving this publication the extra edge. Clearly a well-done magazine!

Best Solutions Journalism Project

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Sun Journal

Homeless in Maine

This collaborative series by several newspapers on the homeless problem in Maine was excellent. The journalists went beyond reporting on the problem, examining the homeless population from working homeless to teens who have been kicked out of their homes

2nd Place: Staff

Day, The

Housing Solutions Lab

3rd Place: John Barstow et al.

Addison County Independent

Climate Matters Solutions Journalism Project

3rd Place: Kelly Burch

Granite State News Collaborative

Substitute Teacher Shortage Series

Best Website Home Page

Daily and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Homepage

The home page design is effective. and lends itself to navigating visitors to the next step. There is an amazing amount of local content on trending topics in culture and sports. The layout, white space, colors, fonts, and use of graphics create a calm relaxed vibe for the site which is important for the home page to do.

2nd Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive.com homepage

Good use of white space and colors. The top menu jumps you around to different places on the home page. The side menu is where you can navigate the site structure. Once you scroll down somewhere this side menu is not accessible. The site has so much great local content that making the home page top menu stronger and carrying this across all the site pages might lead to better UX.

Best Website Home Page *continued*

3rd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

BerkshireEagle.com

There is a lot of content on this home page, a good mix of local and statewide news with eye catching photos. There could be less ads making more white space and not breaking up the grid. Like Today's Top Headlines and Featured Business sections.

Specialty

1st Place: PBN Staff

Providence Business News

PBN Best Homepage

Great use of of whitespace on this homepage. There are clear calls to action and the navigation is easy to follow. Like the quick rollover of top stories, across the top menu. The ads are placed in the right parts of the design, not blocking or interrupting.

2nd Place: Staff

New Hampshire Bulletin

New Hampshire Bulletin

Clean simple to navigate home page with calls to action (Subscribe, Donate) on the top. Great use of white space and graphics with easy to follow grid design. It would be good if top menu was sticky so as you scroll down you can quickly go to another section.

Weekly

1st Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

vineyardgazette.com

Great use of white space and correct ad placement on this homepage. The top menu has a lot of links that could be consolidated into a simpler navigation. Like Most recent stories, Sign up for newsletters, and Send us a news tip above the fold.

2nd Place: Don Eggert

Seven Days

Seven Days

If this homepage had some breathing room it would be a first place winner. The ads on the top and sides close all the content in. This does not happen on mobile. The navigation menus are great and there are clear calls to action above the fold.

3rd Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Inquirer and Mirror website home page

Great local content, easy to follow menu and nice graphics to white space balance. Some call to action home page elements could benefit from being above the fold, Happening Now and Read the e-Edition and Newsletter sign-up.

Business Page or Section

Combined

1st Place: Staff

The Republican

OUTLOOK 2023

Outlook 2023 is a tremendous service to the readers and the businesses in the area. This section is an extraordinary undertaking by the newspaper.

Business/Economic Reporting

Daily 1

1st Place: Kathy Bossa

Enterprise, The (Brockton)

Bidding wars: Why homes once worth \$12K are selling for \$500K

This article told two related stories in an interesting way: first, how a post-war home construction company transformed the look and economics of Brockton, and second, the history and legacy of the Campanelli family behind it. It's a reminder that many

Business/Economic Reporting *cont.*

2nd Place: Christopher Wheelock

Sun Journal

Chaga farming in Maine

Who knew? This is one of those stories that readers will be happy to stumble across without having had any idea that the subject would be one to claim their interest. It's one that enables readers to start a conversation by saying to the person on the adjoining bar stool, "Did you know you can farm Chaga mushrooms?" At least that's what I'll do.

Daily 2

1st Place: Zane Razzaq

Cape Cod Times

Private investors are buying up mobile home parks

the trend of how and why private investors buy mobile home parks is explored and explained through the story of one park's residents who found a way to take control. A well-researched, good read.

2nd Place: Michael Cousineau

New Hampshire Union Leader

Town challenges 'agritourism' regulations

An interesting look at how state and local regulations may conflict; a well-researched piece.

2nd Place: Henry Schwan

Telegram & Gazette

Hitting Home

The injustice of how Worcester deals with tax liens jumps out of this story, while the writer exposes a questionable - yet legal - system.

3rd Place: Katie Landeck

Providence Journal

Another duckpin bowling alley closes

An engaging story. The writer took a business-closing story and developed it into a wider trend.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Erica E. Phillips

Connecticut Mirror, The

CT's career and tech education system: The next stage

A solid three-part series which is thoroughly reported and helps the reader understand the economic development impacts of Connecticut's career and technical education system.

2nd Place: Ross Cristantiello

Boston.com

Recreational cannabis prices in Mass. plummet as dispensary owners weigh future

This story includes plenty of voices from various segments for a perspective on why this industry is at a crossroads.

3rd Place: Michael Jonas

CommonWealth Beacon

Could Boston face an 'urban doom loop'?

A well-researched trend piece.

3rd Place: Annmarie Timmins

New Hampshire Bulletin

Buyer's ambitious plans for Lakes Region site surpass her prior projects – by far

Solid reporting on the track record of the developer who was likely to be chosen for a large state project.

Specialty

1st Place: Grant Welker

Boston Business Journal

MILLION-DOLLAR TEARDOWNS: How soaring wealth is dramatically remaking Boston-area neighborhoods

This is an exemplary piece of journalism in many ways. It was deeply researched and data driven; graphically presented, and interestingly written. Noteworthy also is its inclusion of the socio-economic context of teardowns in the communities where they

Business/Economic Reporting *cont.*

2nd Place: Greg Ryan

Boston Business Journal

Shock to the system

This article not only provided new and interesting information about the emerging EV industry, it focused attention on the looming and disruptive impact it will inevitably have on the many people whose businesses include the familiar corner gas station.

3rd Place: Brian Bushard

Nantucket Today

Nantucket's Housing Crisis is Bad for Business

Although the challenges of finding housing for the typical wage earner in upscale-resort communities are well reported, this article is a worthy example of solutions journalism by highlighting several efforts by Nantucket to find and test answers.

Weekly 1

1st Place: Dan Fost

The Inquirer and Mirror

Special Report

Each article in this three-part series was excellent. Together, the special report thoroughly addressed the challenging problem of balancing the often-negative impact of short-term rentals on Nantucket (and resort communities like it) with the needs of local homeowners dependent on them. It provided a useful template for these other communities to use.

2nd Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

Patience and progress

This went beyond being a feature story about a popular restaurant deeply rooted in its community to provide a broader understanding of the struggles this and many restaurants endured to survive the pandemic.

3rd Place: Grace Fiori

Harvard Press, The

Blood Farm: Local slaughterhouse offers a lesson in resilience

How coincidental it is that this is the story about a centuries-old slaughterhouse passed on for generations in a family named Blood? That coincidence alone drew my initial interest. But the thorough reporting delivered much more than a twist on the family name, a slaughterhouse on Blood Farm. The article told the interesting history of how this business survived by evolving through the generations without losing touch with its community and roots.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Ken Picard

Seven Days

Working on the Railroad

A well-told tale. You can hear the whistle blow. Looking back with nostalgia, looking forward with hope.

2nd Place: Nicholas Miller

Provincetown Independent

Scalloping on Cape Cod: A Three-Part Investigation

Readable. Hard working real people trying to cope with a puzzling system.

3rd Place: Joyce Marcel

Commons, The

'I had nothing left'

Compelling storytelling about independent businesses being sucked dry by the system.

Climate Change or Weather Reporting

Daily 1

1st Place: Staff
Brattleboro Reformer

July flood

The Reformer's coverage of the catastrophic flooding in Vermont was exceptional. Thorough reporting complemented by stunning photographs.

2nd Place: Susan Smallheer
Brattleboro Reformer
Crop loss

Daily 2

1st Place: Shawne K. Wickham
New Hampshire Union Leader

Climate change in NH

Wickham tackled the effects of climate change in New Hampshire from varied angles capturing readers' interests. Well done!

2nd Place: Greenfield Recorder Staff
Greenfield Recorder, The
Climate Change at Home

3rd Place: Daily Hampshire Gazette Staff
Daily Hampshire Gazette
Flooding ravages Connecticut River Valley

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Kate Cough, Alex MacLean
Maine Monitor, The

The Unstoppable Ocean

The Unstoppable Ocean thoroughly documents the challenges the coast faces. This series was carefully researched and well-reported. The series is complemented by strong images - well done!

1st Place: Kendra Nordin Beato, Millie Brigaud
Christian Science Monitor, The

When the floods surged, a focus on readiness helped Vermont

This well-written report by Beato and Brigaud underscores the benefits of investing in preparedness after lessons learned from Irene.

2nd Place: Ross Cristantiello
Boston.com

Study: Flooding costs to MBTA could more than double by 2030, to \$58 million a year

3rd Place: Will Katcher
MassLive

'Weather Nut' calls this section of Mass. 'the Triangle of Disappointment' for snow lovers

Weekly

1st Place: Paul Benson, Christine Legere
Provincetown Independent

The December Storm and Flood in Provincetown
Powerful reporting and photography shedding light on the damage caused throughout the area to residents and businesses from the December Storm.

2nd Place: Tommy Gardner, Aaron Calvin
News & Citizen
County cleans up, braces for more

3rd Place: Colin Flanders, Kevin McCallum, Derek Brouwer
Seven Days

The Aftermath/Dam Scary

3rd Place: Marin Howell
Addison County Independent
Warming weather hurting bees

Combating Misinformation and Restoring Trust

Combined

1st Place: Paula Routly, Cathy Resmer
Seven Days

Notes From the Publisher

Seven Days brilliantly speaks to the audience, explains journalistic processes, introduces staff, and educates readers.

Commentary

Daily

1st Place: Lisa McGinley
Day, The

Crystal Mall crystal ball

This commentary puts a highly local lens on the chaos of retail sales over the past few decades. It captures the excitement of a mall opening, and shows how it has ebbed to the point where all the glitz is gone, the shoppers have gone elsewhere, and here's what we're left with. And now what?

2nd Place: Jonna Carter
Conway Daily Sun, The
Commentary - CDS

Jonna Carter goes directly after three benighted members of the New Hampshire Executive Council, who for years have blocked efforts to help young people negotiate the road to adulthood. The quotes from the councilors are particularly helpful in understanding they live in the Dark Ages.

3rd Place: Mitchell Chapman
The Berkshire Eagle

When I was exiting foster care

This poignant first-person commentary raises all manner of issues that seldom pop up in legislative and policy discussions of foster care. It was illuminating.

Weekly

1st Place: Grace Waryas
Commons, The

'Where willful ignorance becomes malice'

Grace Waryas is only 17, but she has the wisdom that the much older members of the high school board clearly lack. Her efforts to allow a Black Lives Matter flag at the school draw out the worst of certain school board members, and showed them for what they are. Interestingly, after Waryas endured that ignorance, people in the community showed up for the next meeting, and several scolded the school board for its behavior. In the end, the board voted to allow only the U.S. and state flag to fly at the school, but Waryas had this to say: "I am proud of the punch I swung at the rose-colored glasses that many in our community have worn for decades."

2nd Place: John Muldoon
Ipswich Local News

Ipswich MBTA Zoning COmmentary

Yes, Ipswich is a beautiful place, but it's not 100% beautiful, and John P. Muldoon takes us on a tour of unsightly places in town, places that need no saving and could be suitable locations for the additional housing that Massachusetts needs. This highly localized view of "plain ugly" parts of town is an eye-opener.

3rd Place: Scott Van Voorhis
Banker & Tradesman

New Housing Languishes While Frank Baker Sulks

This commentary is a bit inside baseball, but it shows how one opponent can stall plans for the housing Boston badly needs.

Community/Audience Involvement Combined

1st Place: Staff
Boston.com

Boston.com Community

A model for what community engagement and reader involvement should be like. This smorgasbord of topics draws readers into the conversation from just about every angle: Food, entertainment, culture, politics and the like. Helpful map guides too. How often does a contest entry give the judge tips on where to go to eat? This one does.

2nd Place: Staff
Ipswich Local News

Ipswich Local News Literary Supplement

These supplements served to bring out the best in local readers, who presented valuable literary and artistic offerings. The photos alone are superb. An excellent idea, well-executed.

3rd Place: Stella Straub, Kris McGinn, and Tim Averill

Manchester Cricket, The

Point Counterpoint: Weighing in on National Issues

Excellent choice to recruit young people into the newspaper, both as authors and, potentially, readers. Explores important issues and provides a teaching tool on them for all readers.

Crime and Courts Reporting Daily 1

1st Place: Mark LaFlamme
Sun Journal

A tale of two Justins

An extraordinary in-depth look at the foreseeable and tragic murder by a mentally ill man. Riveting reporting and writing.

2nd Place: Mark LaFlamme
Sun Journal

Are we having a crime wave in Lewiston and Auburn?

An illuminating and deeply reported look at public fears about crime in two communities.

3rd Place: Jessica Trufant
The Patriot Ledger

Weymouth police officer resigns. He was about to be fired over body cam video of arrest.

Excellent reporting on how bodycams can pinpoint bad cops.

Daily 2

1st Place: Katie Mulvaney
Providence Journal

Dark cloud over District Court

Deeply reported, well-written look at District Court personnel shortcomings. The story is a beacon of scrupulously fair reporting.

2nd Place: Sten Spinella
The Berkshire Eagle

Mark Bednarz series

Thorough deadline reporting, and thoughtful follow-up stories on people's rights to defend their homes.

3rd Place: Heather Bellow
The Berkshire Eagle

No business is safe

Thoughtful reporting on the unchecked theft of catalytic converters.

Crime and Courts Reporting *continued*

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: José Luis Martínez

Connecticut Mirror, The

Mexico accused CT's Colt, other gunmakers of marketing to drug cartels.

An impressive example of enterprise journalism strongly rooted in data. The story begins in rather mundane fashion, noting that a lawsuit brought by the Mexican government against Colt and other gun manufacturers was about to go to trial. But we learn so much more, including the background of laws granting immunity to U.S. gun manufacturers and the relationship between trading illegal U.S. guns for fentanyl made in Mexico. The use of data visualizations is sparing but effective. Although the story includes several interviews, most of this consists of a deep dive into publicly available documents. A triumph.

2nd Place: Ethan Weinstein

VTDigger.org

Witness says man who died at Springfield prison pleaded for help

Over the course of a three-part series, we learn more and more about the death of a prison inmate who had begged for help with breathing problems and who died unattended. One guard reportedly told him if he didn't stop complaining, he'd be sent to confinement. In the first story, we hear from one inmate. In part two, we hear from a second. In part three, a total of five inmates say that they had all heard the victim complain about breathing problems. We also learn that Vermont prisons have been the scene of a number of inmate deaths, and that the corrections department was in the process of switching to another health-care provider. This is accountability journalism at its finest, focusing on the fate of people who society generally doesn't care much about.

3rd Place: Annmarie Timmins

New Hampshire Bulletin

No arrest, no comment: The 5-year-old homicide victim the state's not talking about

A detailed story about the unsolved killing of a 5-year-old boy. The reporter demonstrates a tremendous amount of enterprise, even persuading the lead suspect (the boy's grandmother) to be interviewed. We learn that the boy may have been subjected to horrific physical abuse and that the police insist they have continued to investigate diligently even though no arrest had been made after four years. We also learn about two women with no connection to the case who have campaigned to raise public awareness. I found the narrative a bit difficult to follow and had to keep scrolling back to keep the various players straight in my head. But the story is real public service, shining a light on a case that may have been in danger of slipping out of view.

Weekly

1st Place: Kris Olson

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

Dockets show signs of frustration over judge's showing on list of long-languishing motions

Stellar in-depth reporting on the high cost of mind-boggling procrastination by a US District Court judge.

2nd Place: Sam Pollak, K.C. Myers

Provincetown Independent

Why Three Men Died This Summer in County Jail

Dogged reporting on preventable deaths at the Barnstable County jail.

3rd Place: Corey McDonald

Shelburne News

Shelburne cop under investigation

First-rate diligent reporting on a police use of force incident.

Editorial Cartoon

Combined

1st Place: Ed Colley

Ipswich Local News

Ed Colley Cats

Exceptional application of a well-known metaphor. Nicely drawn, full of action.

2nd Place: Don Landgren Jr.

Telegram & Gazette

Teaching to the test

A clever twist on the way the test is taken. A good idea, well carried out.

3rd Place: Peter Paul Payack

Banker & Tradesman

Why Are Cape Vacation Rentals So Empty?

Another bit of anthropomorphism that clicks with the viewer. Theme is instantly understandable.

Editorial Writing

Combined

1st Place: Mark Guerringue

Conway Daily Sun, The

Editorials - CDS

You don't need a lot of words to make a point. These editorials are short, punchy, and effective.

2nd Place: Larry Parnass

The Republican

The Republican (Springfield) editorials

Straight-talk, no-nonsense editorials. I liked them.

3rd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Inquirer and Mirror Editorials

I liked the talk-to-the-reader feeling of these editorials.

Editorial/Commentary Page

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

editorial pages, Angelo Lynn and staff

The pages have a laid-back look, but the socko picture on the main editorial page is sure to attract readers.

2nd Place: Jeff Potter, editor

Commons, The

Voices section, Sept. 28, 2022

Pleasing page with lots of air. The drop heads could use fewer words.

3rd Place: Staff

Ellsworth American, The

Ellsworth American Opinion

Nice page with a variety of topics, anchored by a pleasing picture.

Education Reporting

Daily

1st Place: Aprell Munford

The Republican

The implosion of Paulo Freire

This investigative report looks closely at the troubles that beset the Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School and how they led to its almost inevitable closure, with a focus on students affected by the lost learning time and forced transfers. It is deeply researched and reported, with rich details and a seemingly full accounting of the school's downfall. While laying out those events, the story keeps its focus on the human impacts of the school's failure by opening and closing with student Jayla Fisher, who eloquently expresses her disappointment in the adults who have failed her.

Education Reporting *continued*

2nd Place: Ian Lenahan

Portsmouth Herald

"'Appalling': St. Thomas Aquinas alumni petition for diocese to oust school's leadership

This report thoughtfully localizes the ongoing culture wars targeting the LGBTQ+ community by looking deeply at a controversy within and around a local Catholic school. Stonewalled by the school and the teachers, the reporter interviewed a former educator and a handful of graduates who spoke passionately about the culture of acceptance they had experienced at the school and their disappointment in the loss of the adults who had fostered it. Their experiences paint a vivid picture of an institution that may already have lost the values they cherished.

3rd Place: Jane Kaufman

The Berkshire Eagle

Combined classrooms, desktop lunches and a principal who teaches, too

This story took a deep dive into a special school that operates in its own way, with lots of color and quotes from parents, teachers, and students showing what makes them love the school. But it also addressed the school's middling test scores and allowed it to respond, providing balance and raising questions about the curriculum. It's a balanced view of a beloved local institution that is facing the same headwinds as many other small schools while working to maintain its family feel and personalized education.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Jessika Harkay

Connecticut Mirror, The

How CT's college-readiness system leaves students of color behind

This story balances terrific human sources with extensive data and context to explore how many schools provide further roadblocks to success by not giving students of color equitable

access to advanced coursework. The central trio provide three faces and voices on the issue, each with a particular perspective that helps show some of the varied ways students are let down by their teachers' low expectations of them, while individualizing and humanizing the students so they become more than well-worn journalistic archetypes. And the piece grapples meaningfully with the racism inherent in the educational structures these students must learn within, acknowledging root causes that newspaper reporters too often overlook.

2nd Place: Peter D'Auria

VTDigger.org

Bennington Elementary School is calling the police on its own students

This story takes a detailed look at behavioral issues leading Bennington Elementary to call the police on young students, examining closely both the issues within the school and with children across the country in the wake of the pandemic, as well as the use of police in schools. It is deeply reported and replete with individual anecdotes and perspectives from former staff members, child development specialists, and officials, but also data, policy statements, and police reports that ground those observations in hard facts.

3rd Place: Luis Fieldman

MassLive

Palmer educator confidentiality agreements

This series of reports closely follows the departure of Palmer's school superintendent amid a series of allegations from educators and parents about bizarrely tyrannical behavior and ignoring bullying among students. The reporter quotes extensively from a variety of sources, some anonymous because of the sensitivity of the topic, and uses public record requests as weapon, giving a strong sense of how badly things were going in the Palmer schools under this superintendent.

Education Reporting *continued*

Weekly

1st Place: K.C. Myers

Provincetown Independent

Racism on Campus: Nauset Officials Covered Up Bullying Incidents

This story documents the shocking antisemitic harassment one girl says endured at a local high school and the administration's perhaps equally shocking inaction, while acknowledging that much of what she says can't be independently confirmed. It's a nuanced report that makes it clear that the school failed this student and the community while maintaining a healthy journalistic skepticism, and it honors the complexity of the situation and of human nature through interviews with some of those accused of abuse.

2nd Place: Alison Novak

Seven Days

Physical Education

This report extensively details the use of physical restraint and seclusion on students in Vermont schools, with detailed personal anecdotes and hard numbers showing the extent and the effects of those experiences. Through the voices of students, parents, educators, and lawmakers, the reporter tells a compelling and emotional story while also explaining how public policy can help address the trauma.

3rd Place: Nancy Lavin, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

School Daze

This report digs deep into the causes of declining enrollment at Rhode Island College and the institution's rocky recent history, complete with the usual revolving door of leadership and budgetary issues. It foregrounds the experiences of frustrated professors and students while including interviews with college and state officials and a capsule history of the college and the law helping to deplete its coffers.

Energy News and Reporting

Combined

1st Place: Emma Cotton

VTDigger.org

Powerless

This is an insightful story that takes a deep dive into one small electric cooperative's struggles following a major storm, to show the issues similar utilities could face as storms intensify due to climate change and illustrate lessons that can be learned nationwide. The reporter smartly sets the scene with line workers and weaves in personal stories from those impacted by the storm. Thorough reporting and strong writing.

2nd Place: Nancy Lavin, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

Lost in Emissions

This reporter used their knowledge of the business community to uncover something surprising— Rhode Island, a state with an ambitious law to tackle climate change, wasn't consulting with businesses on how to reduce emissions. The story shows the disconnect that can happen between policymaking and implementation. It gives state leaders ideas for how to better work with businesses toward net-zero emissions. Strong sourcing made this story stand out.

3rd Place: Kevin McCallum

Seven Days

Electric Avenues

This story gives readers a good understanding of the debate in Vermont over using agricultural land for farming and what options the state has for its energy future. The reporter expertly weaves residents' voices with background about the state's power sources, with a nice ending that leaves the reader with hope that farming and solar can coexist. A well-written and reported story.

Environmental Reporting

Daily

1st Place: Heather McCarron

Cape Cod Times

Covering the endangered right whale
Compelling writing about the right whales' struggles to survive told through the "chronically entangled" experiences of Snow Cone. Mesmerizing photos and videos complete this report.

2nd Place: Heather Bellow

The Berkshire Eagle

If the dam breaks ...

Good use of public records requests to gather information about dams in the region.

2nd Place: Michael Cousineau

New Hampshire Union Leader

If the dams get taken out

3rd Place: Katie Landeck

Providence Journal

Sea animal rescue

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Emma Cotton

VTDigger.org

Under pressure

Emma Cotton examines the frequent water main breaks in Montpelier. Well written, clear focus with helpful mapping.

2nd Place: Dialynn Dwyer

Boston.com

Trees are key to address Boston's heat islands!

3rd Place: Mark Pazniokas

Connecticut Mirror, The

What is the future of CT's trash disposal?
Lamont, industry at odds

Weekly

1st Place: Kevin McCallum

Seven Days

Flowing Downhill

This Seven Days report shows clearly that pollution from dairy farms has been a major and costly problem for years, and a divide between two state agencies that split the responsibility for regulating farms has allowed the problem to continue. It's a powerful piece that shows what's happening on the ground and in the water, and tracks the delays and disputes that have prevented state agencies from doing what they should.

2nd Place: Ella Niederhelman, Lindsey Byman, Amy Palmer

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich Local News Environmental Reporting

The headline: The Great Marsh: A potential collapse of ecosystem, and of community.

This piece does a lovely job of describing the value of salt marshes, and goes beyond marveling to explain that they're in trouble and need help.

3rd Place: Sam Moore

Bluedot Living MV

Secrets of the Salt Marshes

This beautiful layout and wonderful writing deserve an award, but third place, rather than second, because it takes too long to get into the problems that salt marshes are facing. That's an important part of the story.



Event Special Section

Specialty

1st Place: James Bessette, PBN Staff
Providence Business News

PBN-Business Women

Superb special section and awards program highlighting business women and their impact on Rhode Island business community.

2nd Place: James Bessette, PBN Staff
Providence Business News

PBN-DEI Summit & Awards

Important special section and award celebrating diversity and inclusion.

Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Worcester Business Journal

Redlining: An Economic Legacy

The Worcester Business Journal and the Worcester Regional Research Bureau, in this long-term project, developed important content exposing the economic fallout from discriminatory practices.

2nd Place: Staff
Day, The

A Day in Eviction Court & After an eviction notice, it's a race against time

3rd Place: Staff

Sun Journal

Homeless in Maine

Food Page or Section

Daily

1st Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Food page, April 26, 2023

Beautiful layout on this twisted page! I can't wait to use the recipe to make pretzels.

2nd Place: Kendra Nordin Beato

Christian Science Monitor, The

Hack your fridge: Delicious meals with less waste

This creative piece takes food hacks from different cookbooks to share ideas on cutting down on food waste, making food budgets last longer! Excellent illustrations!

Specialty

1st Place: Catherine Walthers

Bluedot Living MV

Wild Caught: Plenty of Fish in the Surrounding Sea

Wild Caught has vivid pictures and images. This section has an abundance of recipes and info on the Vineyard's local fish and fishermen! Yummy!

2nd Place: Shepard Bassett

New Boston Beacon

In the Kitchen

Local spin on apple cider donuts - yes, please!!

Weekly

1st Place: Bill Morrison

Mount Desert Islander

The Wandering Chef

This page is gorgeous. The layout is simply lovely. We loved the recipe card!

2nd Place: Jordan Barry, Melissa Pasanen

Seven Days

March 29 Food Section

It's rare to see a six-page food section, but Seven Days seamlessly blends Money, Retirement and Food in this delightful section.

3rd Place: Eve Samaha

Provincetown Independent

Bright Pops of Summer Joy

Pure joy!

Front Page

Daily

1st Place: Evan Berkowitz

The Berkshire Eagle

Front page: June 17-18, 2023

This page effectively highlights the local numbers related to the statewide problems of high rent mixed with low inventory. Data visualizations are balanced nicely with headline treatment photo and text.

2nd Place: Jim Flynn

Republican-American

UConn Wins

A loud shout out to the Huskies' return to the pinnacle of college basketball.

3rd Place: Samuel Deeb, Rachel Barber,

And Emily Pauls

The Daily Item

Will AI replace us?

The Item does a nice job giving a topic everyone is talking about some major real estate with a local angle, a local voice and cleverly allowing ChatGPT to state its case.

Front Page

Specialty

1st Place: Lisa Lynn

VT Ski + Ride

VT SKI + RIDE Summer Guide cover

This cover makes "taking the plunge" in VT Ski + Ride's Summer Guide issue a no-brainer.

2nd Place: Anne Ewing

Providence Business News

PBN Front Page-Money Matters

The graphic element with the centerpiece story "Money Matters" makes clear the importance of Rhode Island's ballot referenda on Rhode Island's economy.

3rd Place: Matt Selva

Mainebiz

Checks and Balances Front Page

Jimmy Stewart is back for an encore in this cover comparing the near-collapse of Bailey Brothers Building and Loan to present-day bank failures.

Weekly

1st Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Martha's Vineyard Times

Both Martha's Vineyard newspapers stepped it up when Florida's governor ordered migrants to be flown to the island. Both the Times and Gazette anchored their reports with strong photos.

2nd Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

Vineyard Gazette: Page 1, September 16, 2022

Both Martha's Vineyard newspapers stepped it up when Florida's governor ordered migrants to be flown to the island. Both the Times and Gazette anchored their reports with strong photos.

3rd Place: Lise Barnett

Valley Breeze

May 4 edition

A simple, clear layout with a standalone photo that jumps off the page.



General News Story

Daily 1

1st Place: Dominic Poli
Greenfield Recorder, The

A case of stolen valor

A news story that clearly pulls together all the factors that show repeated lies and deceptions by a military veteran, while also capturing the impact he had on others and the remorse he voiced after being exposed. Good reporting and lots of information and quotes to back it up.

2nd Place: Cody Shepard, Chris Helms and Marc Vasconcellos

Enterprise, The (Brockton)

Historic 10-alarm fire closes Brockton hospital for months

Good reporting and follow-up on a major fire that entailed a massive response by emergency crews and hospital staff. This package shows the importance of a newspaper following the "big story" well after the initial burst of news.

3rd Place: Matthew Ferreira
Standard-Times, The

Did New Bedford drop the ball on fire code enforcement of rooming house?

Although the initial story could have been clearer in stating upfront that two residents died, the two-story package did give readers important information about a major fire, questions raised in its aftermath and, through good reporting, answers to questions raised about inspections, timing and thoroughness by New Bedford fire and building officials.

Daily 2

1st Place: Meg Britton-Mehlisch
The Berkshire Eagle

We just want to keep the kids safe

Well-written and researched story that shows how concerned residents can get policy and practical changes made to increase public safety. Personal anecdote anchors this story but the reporter does a good job broadening the

concerns in Pittsfield over pedestrian safety and dangerous intersections. Well done!

2nd Place: Shawne K. Wickham
New Hampshire Union Leader

Medicare fraud hitting home for NH seniors

Solid reporting that documents how widespread and expensive Medicare fraud is and how the criminals target people. Lots of information here to educate people and give them tools to (maybe) avoid getting scammed.

3rd Place: Antonia Noori Farzan
Providence Journal

Nursing home horrors

Good reporting that tracks and documents the terrible conditions and treatment of residents in a nursing home. Not a unique situation, but this local reporter did a good job on this thorny topic.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Annmarie Timmins
New Hampshire Bulletin

How a golf lover's \$3.8 million gift to Dartmouth turned into a yearslong legal dispute

Timmins' illuminating report on this legal battle exposes how the charitable gifts can get incorrectly applied. Good examples of other incidents.

2nd Place: Juliet Schulman-Hall
MassLive

A housing program seemed too good to be true for Mass. mother; now she helps advise it

2nd Place: Tréa Lavery
MassLive

Mass. needs more affordable housing; So why don't developers build more?

3rd Place: Erica E. Phillips
Connecticut Mirror, The

CT child care sector braces for fallout as COVID grants end

General News Story *continued*

Weekly 1

1st Place: Dean Geddes

The Inquirer and Mirror

NFD: Department severely understaffed, poses risk to island

Vital and timely reporting about the details behind Nantucket Fire Department short-staffing and the consequences that can result. The comparison of staffing at a recent Nantucket fire to the massive response by fire departments to a house fire on the mainland (in Hingham) is a stark example of the dangers faced by Nantucket residents and firefighters if the short-staffing continues. Well done!

2nd Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Vineyard shows migrants the love

Good and complete reporting coupled with quality photos make this a solid story package. Lots of information and human perspective in this story.

3rd Place: John Osborn

Harvard Press, The

State opens temporary emergency intake center at Devens

Good information and follow-up on an issue that upset some Devens residents. The reporting shined a light on a gaffe by state officials but also showed how people involved coped with the issue and worked through it.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Paul Benson

Provincetown Independent

National Seashore Dune Shacks Leasing

Solid and detailed reporting on this high-profile issue of renting idyllic dune "shacks" that many residents see as integral parts of the feel of Cape Cod. The Park Service comes off as a big and often-opaque bureaucracy faced with very pointed community resentment. Well done reporting.

2nd Place: John Muldoon, Trevor Meek, and Amy Palmer

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich MBTA Zoning

Good information and follow-up on a big story for these two towns (Rowley and Ipswich). Residents in both communities would have learned a lot by following this reporting.

3rd Place: Courtney Lamdin, Kori Skillman

Seven Days

Crime Pays
An interesting and timely story -- apparently sparked in part by questions from a Seven Days reporter -- that shows how Burlington police work the system and city officials are mostly in the dark about how it came to pass.

3rd Place: Corey McDonald

Citizen, The (Charlotte)
Did Charlotte fire, rescue use tax dollars for secret settlement?

A story that begs for more information but the newspaper went the extra mile trying to get answers from a secretive, but publicly funded, fire/rescue company. We hope the newspaper continued to bird-dog this important story in the days and weeks that followed publication of this one.



Government Reporting

Daily 1

1st Place: Tom Eastman, Daymond Steer
Conway Daily Sun, The
Leavitt's bakery's illegal sign

The Conway Daily Sunday did – and is still doing - a fine job covering the controversy of a large mural sign featuring baked goods designed by high school students on the roof of Leavitt's bakery. The paper has been covering the issue from many angles. It's something that has generated a lot of passionate reader interest.

2nd Place: Jo C. Goode
Herald News, The (Fall River)

Mollicone sold this building for \$1.7M. A week later, it's for sale to the city for \$6.4M.
Jo C. Goode brought to light a sleazy deal in Fall River involving a member of its Planning Board, who also happens to be a contractor who neglected to file any notification of a conflict of interest on the sale of a building he happened to own to the city. Excellent investigative work by the reporter uncovering the web of corruption involved here!

3rd Place: Christopher Cartwright
The Keene Sentinel
The BearCat decade

Nice piece of public service journalism by Christopher Cartwright writing about the history and use by Keene police of a Lenco BearCat Special Missions Vehicle it had purchased using a \$285,933 federal Homeland Security grant. The Keene Sentinel used the Freedom of Information Act effectively in uncovering the times the military-style unit was used.

Daily 2

1st Place: Meg Britton-Mehlisch
The Berkshire Eagle
Board resigns en masse

Meg Britton-Mehlisch dug deep to get the story behind the registration of all but one member of the Pittsfield Police Advisory and Review

Board. This fascinating story is well-structured, in-depth and easy to follow. Excellent reporting!

2nd Place: Antonia Noori Farzan
Providence Journal

Warwick councilwoman acquires land
Great reporting job by Antonia Noori Farzan in getting the details of how a Warwick councilwoman and her husband ended up acquiring land owned by the Oakland Beach Real Estate Owners Association next to her home. Antonia uncovered a lot of questionable actions that went around the homeowner association's rules. This story is a great example of why community journalism is so important.

3rd Place: Jeannette Hinkle
Cape Cod Times

Three people die in 8 weeks at Barnstable County jail
Jeannette Hinkle did a superb job in her reporting of deaths taking place in the Barnstable County Correctional Facility. She broke through the tough public information barriers to provide this exclusive story.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Michael Jonas
CommonWealth Beacon

A race to keep up – or to the bottom? Lottery bets big on \$50 scratch ticket, online games
Michael Jonas provides an excellent, in-depth look at the Massachusetts lottery and how most sales are coming from lower-income residents. Michael does a very nice job balancing the money raised by the state vs. the problems created by the lottery for people who can't afford to throw their earning away, but do in hopes of winning big.

Government Reporting *continued*

2nd Place: Hadley Barndollar

New Hampshire Bulletin

Just 1.5 percent of New Hampshire's 'largest energy relief package' has been disbursed

Excellent in-depth look at the problems associated with New Hampshire's energy relief program. Hadley Barndollar balances reporting on the benefits of the expanded program with the problems state officials have in reaching many of the people who need help.

3rd Place: Abby Patkin

Boston.com

A Mass. bill would cut prison time for organ donations.

Abby Patkin's story about legislation that would give prisoners shorter prison time if they donate organs provides great details on the pros and cons of the issue. It's an excellent example of balanced, well-written journalism.

Specialty

1st Place: Kevin Koczwara

Worcester Business Journal

Paying Polar Park's debt

Well-written piece by Kevin Koczwara on whether the minor league ballpark will eventually pay for itself.

Weekly

1st Place: Christopher Allen, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

R.I.: Help Wanted

Excellent in-depth story on the difficulties of Rhode Island in filling a massive number of open state jobs. Christopher Allen's superb writing, accompanied by an editorial that spells out the problem and what needs to happen with clarity, makes this a mu

2nd Place: Sam Pollak

Provincetown Independent

Wellfleet Financial Mismanagement

Sam Pollack's three-part look at Wellfleet's deep financial problems exposed through a state audit takes the complexities of fiscal mismanagement and miscommunications and spells it out in digestible, easy-to-understand articles. All sides of this were covered with excellence. His work is a great public service for the people of Wellfleet, explaining what the state found, the suggested solutions and the action steps the town officials need to take to correct the mess with great clarity and understanding.

3rd Place: Chelsea Edgar

Seven Days

Ms. Balint Goes to Washington

Compelling Seven Days journal-style story of Rep. Becca Balint's first days in Congress, which occurred in January 2023 during the chaos the Republicans created in trying to pick a House Speaker. The writing by Chelsea Edgar is fascinating in how she captured the events while also providing insight into who Rep. Balint is.

Headline Writing

Combined

1st Place: John Ruddy

Day, The

Doggie DNA has the scoop on errant pet poop

Terrific topper to a story about how a company used DNA testing on dog poop to ID owners who aren't cleaning up after their pets.

2nd Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Kloub Headline

This wonderful plays on not only the woman's crafts made from old tablecloths and jeans but also that she is somewhat of a lightning rod in town politics.

Headline Writing *continued*

3rd Place: Don Seiffert, Doug Banks

Boston Business Journal

SPACS CRACKLED, THEN POPPED

The Rice Krispies gnomes would smile at this headline that no doubt drew a much larger readership than it would have had the editor played it straight.

Health Reporting

Daily

1st Place: Heather Bellow

The Berkshire Eagle

Nursing homes

Covering nursing homes is challenging, but using documents and interviews, Bellow does a thorough job exposing neglect in the region's nursing home with strong, gripping writing.

2nd Place: Roberta Baker

New Hampshire Union Leader

With lead dust sprinkled in homes across NH, lead testing of children and housing is still critical

Through stories of parents, Baker does a nice job educating the reader about the sources of lead poisoning, how it's diagnosed and how it can be prevented.

3rd Place: Jonathan Phelps

New Hampshire Union Leader

County launches its own EMS service, gets pushback from Keene firefighters

Phelps provides a detailed and comprehensive view of EMS woes in the region, showing each side's argument and the critical community needs.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Jenna Carlesso, Dave Altimari

Connecticut Mirror, The

Connecticut's Elder Care Reckoning

The series is an exemplary work in investigating and explaining various aspects of the state's

elder care system, which is crucial for the aging population.

2nd Place: Caitlin Andrews

Maine Monitor, The

A death of choice

The story is a great example of long-form journalism, taking the readers through the final years and days of a woman who has chosen when to die. The story leaves a lasting impression and a better understanding of Maine's death with dignity law.

3rd Place: Juliet Schulman-Hall

MassLive

Abortion in Massachusetts: She didn't know a procedure she said saved her life ...

Using a powerful anecdote, Schulman-Hall explains some of the life-threatening dangers women might face in states where abortion is banned.

Specialty

1st Place: Isabel Tehan

Worcester Business Journal

Bankrupting the system

Well documented and well written, the short term solution of hiring traveling nurses is creating unsustainable health crisis.

2nd Place: Hannah Green

Boston Business Journal

Healthcare goes virtual

Provocative look at Virtual and augmented reality in healthcare.

Weekly

1st Place: Colin Flanders

Seven Days

Vermont's Relapse

Flanders delivers a gripping and eye-opening story on opioid and meth crisis in Vermont, through in-depth reporting and interviews with stakeholders and people with opioid use disorder.

Health Reporting *continued*

2nd Place: Susan Hunter

Duxbury Clipper

Helping our children cope

Sometimes an impactful story is not an investigation, rather it's a story that helps consumers cope with a crisis in their community. Hunter's story on helping children cope after a tragedy in Duxbury does just that, highlighting the importance of local news.

3rd Place: Emma Madgic

Provincetown Independent

Abortion Rights Bill Lacks Cape Cod Access Expansion

Madgic looks beyond the passage of Massachusetts' abortion rights bill to highlight areas where there's little to no access to abortion services.

History Reporting

Daily 1

1st Place: Dan D'Ambrosio

Burlington Free Press

A look back at the life and death of Vermont's Potawatomi medical students

This look at two teenage boys' brief time in Vermont nearly two centuries ago does a masterful and nuanced job of telling the broader story of the country's treatment of Indigenous people.

2nd Place: John Ruddy

Day, The

Case Closed: Wreck of WWII submarine built by EB identified

3rd Place: Jim Therrien

Bennington Banner

Born a Slave - two part series

Daily 2

1st Place: Rachael Devaney

Cape Cod Times

Reverse Freedom Riders

This story is an incredible example of how understanding of local history (and how it fits into our history as a nation overall) can and must inform our understanding of present events.

2nd Place: Mike Griffin

Republican-American

Waterbury's Baseball History

3rd Place: Jack Perry

Providence Journal

Revolutionary War veteran

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

MassLive

Boston Marathon 10-year anniversary

A comprehensive and important part of documenting the wide-ranging impact of an historic event while it is still fresh in the minds and experiences of people who experienced it.

2nd Place: Kevin Slane

Boston.com

Separating fact from fiction in the 'Boston Strangler' movie

3rd Place: Abby Patkin

Boston.com

What's the deal with those Pleasure Island Road signs on Route 128 in Wakefield?

History Reporting

Weekly 1

1st Place: Ruth Thompson

Scituate Mariner

Woman's instinct: This Scituate reporter helped crack case of the Boston Strangler

What a gift to readers to use a timely news hook (the release of a new documentary) to show the community's connection to one of the region's most infamous crimes, while also telling the story of local newspapering in vivid detail.

2nd Place: Joshua Balling

The Inquirer and Mirror

Biden far from the first president to visit Nantucket

3rd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Saga of the Warren Sawyer, wrecked off the south shore in 1884

Weekly 2

1st Place: Steve Goldstein

Seven Days

Homecoming

A beautifully told story of how war far from Vermont had a lifelong impact on families there.

2nd Place: Margaret Smith

Cambridge Chronicle and Tab

What to learn from MA smallpox cemeteries? Sites offer clues to battle against disease

3rd Place: Meera Raman

Boston Business Journal

Inman Square has long been a sanctuary for feminist businesses

Human Interest Feature Story

Daily 1

1st Place: Kimberly Drelich

Day, The

Surgery is a life saver for Pawcatuck woman

Well-written with good variety of interviews.

This story about a woman with cerebral palsy who has surgery to help her walk is worthy of first place.

2nd Place: Dominic Poli

Greenfield Recorder, The

Orange man hikes with slain dad's boots

This story about a son who finally was given the hiking boots his father wore when he was murdered hit all the right notes.

3rd Place: Chris Helms

Enterprise, The (Brockton)

Mom reaches new heights as ironworker

Mother and former health care worker now an iron worker, unusual and risky job. Good story with nice photos.

Daily 2

1st Place: Amanda J. Crawford

Boston Globe, The

Truth for the Dead

The story of the parents of the Sandy Hook's youngest victim and their search for answers and the trauma they went through makes this a truly riveting piece of journalism.

2nd Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy

Republican-American

A Survivor's Story

She was abused by a former mayor of the city she lived in. Eventually she told her story to the newspaper, a story that was deeply disturbing. Well researched, good interviews, well written.

Human Interest Feature Story *cont.*

3rd Place: Shawne K. Wickham

New Hampshire Union Leader

Wear a helmet

If this story is not an excellent reminder to motorcyclists to wear a helmet, then nothing will convince them. Good human interest piece.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Jessika Harkay

Connecticut Mirror, The

Stone Academy students share their stories after closure: 'We're not OK'

Terrific interviews with students whose nursing school suddenly closed and the financial and educational impact the closing had on their lives.

2nd Place: David Sharp

The Associated Press

World Tallest Flag Pole

In-depth look at an issue that is splitting a small very rural Maine community. Pros and cons of building a giant flagpole are greatly enhanced by the photos.

3rd Place: Ross Cristantiello

Boston.com

Who rings the bells inside the Old North Church?

Everything you wanted to know about those bells at the historic Old North Church and the folks who ring them. A fascinating and educational read.

Specialty

1st Place: John Stanton

Nantucket Today

Four Pals Find the Winner's Circle

The writer's style captured the feel of the four "pals" and their bonding over horse racing. Offer some extra insight into the sport from an insider's perspective. A fun read.

Weekly 1

1st Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

Life and death of Darrell Adams

The story begins on a somewhat unassuming note: "In the last summer of his life, Darrell Adams planted a garden." But, from that opening line, the writer "plants" the seeds for a compelling, honest look at an individual who -- on the surface -- comes across as somewhat unsympathetic. Yet, through skillful interviews with those who knew Darrell Adams we come to realize that he was so much more than an alcoholic, homeless veteran. And, we confront the question of what responsibility we, as a society, owe to people like Adams.

2nd Place: Dean Geddes

The Inquirer and Mirror

Tough as they come: Firefighter graduates pararescue jumper school

Why do some people run TOWARD danger? And why would someone put himself through a living hell just to earn the chance to fill that role? This feature gets to the heart of those questions through a skillful blend of telling quotes and statistics. Well done.

3rd Place: Robert Kiener

Stowe Reporter

Saying goodbye to Parker

TIE. You don't have to be a pet owner to appreciate this story of a man's love for his dog (and his dog's love for the man). Through a publishing glitch, readers get a second chance to read a story that was originally published more than a decade ago. It still reads as well today as it did then, proving the subject and its treatment is a timeless classic.

Human Interest Feature Story *cont.*

3rd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Nine months later, Ukrainians see a future in their homeland

TIE. Although many news sites have featured similar types of stories over the past year or so, this one somehow revealed a bit more depth from the subjects who are struggling to deal with a country torn apart by war and their hopes for the future. Nice combination of quotes and anecdotes.

Weekly 2

1st Place: Gilda Geist, Noelle Annonen, Elizabeth Saito

Falmouth Enterprise, The Faces of Affordable Housing

TIE. (Note: This award is for the series. Several of the stories included in this series also appeared as individual entries.) Say "homeless" and a certain stereotype surfaces. However, the variety of profiles of included in this series made readers understand the depth of the affordable housing crisis the region faces. Understanding the efforts these individuals must endure to find reliable, affordable housing just to be a functioning part of the community was eye-opening. Some important work, well-told. Hopefully, the series will continue, perhaps pivoting toward some "solutions-oriented" reporting and/or comparisons of what other communities have employed to confront a similar crisis.

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

On the Road

TIE. Part travel guide, part history lesson, part demographic study -- this entry was a joy to read for the stories it told and the way it told them. A skillful use of the framework of Route 100 itself and an artful blending of the different writers involved, it contained delightful discoveries for both Green Mountain State

visitors and Vermont natives. Effective use of anecdotes throughout.

2nd Place: Laura Colantonio

Valley Breeze

Roller-state

Stories about runners, cyclists, swimmers ... we've read countless accounts of people who find joys (and more) from these somewhat routine physical pursuits. But, roller-skating? That's different. And that is what made this entry such fun to read. The writer found not only different individuals involved in the sport, but got them all to speak of the WHY behind their choices. That facet made this one stand out.

3rd Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

Keeping It Clean on the Island Septic Scene

The longtime municipal or infrastructure employee can often provide a good hook for a feature story. But, understanding how that individual fits into the greater scheme of the community as a whole leads to something more. That was the case here, witnessed by a passage near the top: "If you want to understand the fabric of the Vineyard, septic is a good place to start. It intersects with nearly every major issue on-Island, from zoning and development to water quality and environmental protection. After nearly 30 years in Island septic, and a lifetime in the field, Doug Cooper understands it better than most."

Another well-told tale in a category that offered some strong competitors.

Humor Columnist

Daily

1st Place: Saralee Perel

Cape Cod Times

Helping Hand / Psychotherapist

Self-deprecating and hilarious, the writer shares her personal foibles along with important information with readers in "A helping hand amidst the storm." This was laugh-out-loud funny.

2nd Place: Jonna Carter

Conway Daily Sun, The

Jonna Carter humor columns - CDS

Weekly

1st Place: Esther C. Baird

Ipswich Local News

Esther Baird Columns

2nd Place: Carole Vasta Folley

Other Paper, The

Tech trauma / Freezing cold hard truth

3rd Place: Jessie Raymond

Addison County Independent

I May love and New hobby

Illustration/Infographics

Daily

1st Place: Evan Berkowitz

The Berkshire Eagle

When the Berkshires traveled to you

Effective use of illustrations and infographics on the area's history with locomotives. Nicely done!

2nd Place: Scott Ritter

Day, The

What happened to the Sea Surveyor?

3rd Place: Scott Ritter

Day, The

Case Closed: Wreck of WWII submarine built by EB identified

Specialty

1st Place: Tara Kenny

Bluedot Living MV

Fish the Season

Well executed. A clear winner!

2nd Place: Matt Selva

Mainebiz

Jimmy Stewart A.I.-Aided Illustration

3rd Place: Kristina Walser

Boston Business Journal

Dec. 8 2022 Cover and inside illustrations

Weekly

1st Place: Paul Karasik

Vineyard Gazette

Clock Winder

Well executed and eye-catching!

2nd Place: Harry Bliss

Seven Days

The Death Issue

3rd Place: Nicole Jackson

The Martha's Vineyard Times

A Sharky Place



Innovator Award

Combined

1st Place: James Rinker

The Keene Sentinel

James Rinker for Innovator Award

The impact that James Rinker has made at the Keene Sentinel is remarkable. This small organization has benefitted tremendously from Rinker's keen ability to excel on both journalistic and operational fronts.

2nd Place: Staff

Sun Journal

175th anniversary celebration

3rd Place: Ginny Monk

Connecticut Mirror, The

Notice To Quit

Investigative / Enterprise Reporting

Daily and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Sun Journal

Homeless in Maine

This series chronicles the trauma associated with homelessness in Maine with extreme authority and humanity. One character after another in one story after another underscores the dire need for support for all homeless populations from schoolchildren to the elderly. While the data shows the extent of this social problem, a quote from one of the series' subjects says it all: we "are so much more than what you see on the surface." Congratulations to the journalists at the Sun Journal, the Kennebec Journal and the Morning Sentinel on this riveting series that teaches us so much about this human tragedy.

2nd Place: Samantha Hogan

Maine Monitor, The

Maine's Part-Time Court

This series is a well-written and well-documented look at Maine's inadequate court system. The stories introduce us to part-time judges -- some without courtrooms, budgets or investigators -- who have the power to appoint caregivers to vulnerable populations with little to no oversight. It also shows us the consequences of this lack of accountability -- eight deaths of people under public guardianship. Congratulations to The Maine Monitor for illuminating the dark corners of the court system and for your efforts to protect those who need it most.

3rd Place: Dave Altimari, Jenna Carlesso

Connecticut Mirror, The

Nursing Homes in Peril

Congratulations to Jenna Carlesso and David Altimari of the Connecticut Mirror for their "Nursing Homes in Peril" series that expertly exposes the state's troubled nursing home industry: serious violations and deaths are increasing while state inspections remain in a logjam. The well-written stories are built on solid data and are told through the plight of people most affected by the conditions. These two journalists get readers' attention and keep it throughout the series. Well done!

Weekly

1st Place: Virginia Ray

Commons, The

Legacy of abuse in Brattleboro area schools

This series expertly tells the astonishing stories of two sexual abuse scandals in separate Vermont school districts that unimaginably altered the lives of the victims. Virginia Ray skillfully balances facts and compassion throughout each story as she details the abuse of power by the very people children should trust the most. Excellent work -- both in writing and reporting the tragedies.

Investigative / Enterprise Reporting *continued*

2nd Place: Joyce Marcel, Ellen Pratt Commons, The

Ongoing coverage of housing and homelessness crisis in southern Vermont

Terrific series exploring the conundrum of tenants' rights v. landlords' rights and the balance thereof. Joyce Marcel and Ellen Pratt look at this situation from the perspective of the owners, who could lose the freedom to evict troublesome renters, and from the perspective of the tenants, who, if evicted, sometime become homeless in Vermont's tight rental market. Congratulations on a thoroughly reported series.

3rd Place: Greg Ryan Boston Business Journal

The buildings opened their doors. Just not to lower-income residents

This story takes a deep dive into why affordable housing units take months longer to fill than most market-rate units -- despite the overwhelming need. The reporter uncovered how bureaucratic procedures coupled with a lack of personnel created a perfect backlog storm. His reporting has resulted in measures to fix the issue and get people who qualify for affordable units in those homes sooner. Great work!

Living Page or Section **Daily**

1st Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Landscapes, Feb. 25-26, 2023

This Berkshire Landscapes section is awesome. We are blown away by the amount of arts included in the section and the gorgeous layout on every page. This section is exquisite.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Culture

Fun, quirky and appealing!

Weekly 1

1st Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Inquirer and Mirror Living Section

The Inquirer and Mirror put together a solid Living Section with features and entertainment pieces for a wide audience. Nicely done!

2nd Place: Kristofer Rabasca, Connie Berry

The Martha's Vineyard Times

04-27-23COMM-SECTION

3rd Place: Kristofer Rabasca, Connie Berry

The Martha's Vineyard Times

02-23-23COMM-SECTION

Weekly 2

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

Addison Independent living section, Elsie Lynn Parini and staff

Babies & Families must be a hit with every parent in the region! This section is chock full of useful, interesting information for families.

2nd Place: Teresa Parker

Provincetown Independent

Inside/Out Living Section, Provincetown Independent, July 13, 2023

3rd Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

August 19, 2022

Local Election Coverage

Combined

1st Place: PBN Staff

Providence Business News

PBN Election Coverage

This is exactly the way an election ought to be covered. Through a deep portfolio of stories, Providence Business News informed voters about a wide range of issues involving state and local elections. As the media critic Jay Rosen might put it, PBN focused on the stakes rather than the horse race. Reports included topics such as what would the mayor's would-be successors do about his initiatives such as racial reparations and bicycle infrastructure and how a bond issue on the ballot would affect public education and green economy initiatives. There was even a feature on how the campaign had helped some small businesses, opening with a man who owned a shop that printed political signs. The effect of massive turnover on the Providence City Council was explored, and post-election coverage took on issues such as the future of the Republican Party following an Election Day wipeout. This is the sort of journalism that truly serves members of the public and gives them a sense of agency in governing themselves. A triumph.

2nd Place: Derek Brouwer, Sasha Goldstein ***Seven Days***

Money for Her Run

Seven Days helped expose a campaign scandal involving the LGBTQ Victory Institute. The organization had been the recipient of funding from convicted crypto criminal Sam Bank-Fried, and that money played a large role in the election of U.S. Rep. Becca Balint in the 2022 Democratic primary. The hurdle that this story had to overcome was to show that Blint and the Victory Institute knew that they shouldn't be taking money from Bank-Fried at the time they were taking it, and there is evidence in the story to that effect. That includes the tweaking of language in Balint's pandemic policy to reflect the preferences of Bank-Fried's brother, who ran a PAC brimming with crypto money that

heavily supported Balint. Another detail, not quite related to the main thrust of the story but telling nevertheless, is that the Balint campaign used a "red box" that contained B-roll and other material that Super PACs could use without technically violating campaign finance laws. The Balint campaign denied it, but took down its red box after Seven Days and VTDigger revealed its existence.

3rd Place: Meg Britton-Mehlich

The Berkshire Eagle

As DA's handling questioned, here are the facts Journalism at its best provides truth and context when political candidates fling charges against one another that can't be checked in real time. In this case, the Eagle took a deep dive into accusations that the suspect in a fatal shooting was free only because the district attorney had failed to aggressively prosecute him in an earlier crime. The Eagle's findings were somewhat inconclusive but tended toward a defense of the DA's claims that she had sought prison time for that earlier crime only to be overruled by the judge. The story was a help to voters seeking to sort out those competing claims and thus have the information they needed on Election Day.

Local Personality Profile

Daily 1

1st Place: James Rinker

The Keene Sentinel

Winchester teen's dancing becomes Keene staple

This refreshing portrait truly sparks joy.

2nd Place: Peter Blandino

The Patriot Ledger

Quincy woman's obstacle list is long: Homelessness, mental illness and quadriplegic father

A touching look at a life that others might just pass by. This profile helps us look differently at people who struggle.

Local Personality Profile *continued*

3rd Place: Mary Byrne
Greenfield Recorder, The
The 'Heart Work'

Excellent use of quotes to get this compelling individual to tell her own story.

Daily 2

1st Place: Stephanie Barry
The Republican

Mob informant swaggers back
What a gripping lede! And it just gets better. A startling read.

2nd Place: Antonia Noori Farzan
Providence Journal

House Speaker Joe Shekarchi's Iranian roots
This powerfully written profile reveals a surprising side to a man we thought we knew well. Terrific!

3rd Place: Heather Bellow
The Berkshire Eagle

Who is Ryan Salame?
A fascinating portrait that pulls back the curtain on a famous local son almost nobody knew.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Dialynn Dwyer
Boston.com

She provides counseling to the most entrenched individuals at Mass. and Cass
Elegant writing that brings this remarkable individual to life.

2nd Place: Alvin Buyinza
MassLive

'Java with Jimmy' show, created during pandemic, expands its Boston reach
This important portrait takes us into a corner of the pandemic many of us didn't even see, let alone experience firsthand.

3rd Place: Heather Alterisio
Boston.com

Newburyport survivor reflects on Boston's resilience after 2013 marathon bombing
Written in such a highly engaging manner, it's easy for the reader to go the distance with this subject.

Specialty

1st Place: Lisa Lynn
VT Ski + Ride

John Fusco's Ski Town Elegy - VT SKI RIDE
Unrivaled color and texture make this lively and highly readable takeout exceptional.

2nd Place: John Stanton
Nantucket Today

Chasing Fish
This nuanced profile takes the reader far deeper into the hazards of the commercial fishing life than most stories would.

3rd Place: Kris Olson
Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

At 96, accidental lawyer still at it
An engaging portrait that makes us want to have coffee with this tireless nonagenarian barrister.

Weekly

1st Place: Chelsea Edgar
Seven Days

The Conversation Artist
An irreverent and thoroughly enjoyable read.

2nd Place: Thomas Humphrey
Vineyard Gazette

Walter Wlodyka: Apex Predator for Island Skunk Population
A deliciously unconventional subject, elegantly told.

3rd Place: Fran Lynggaard Hansen
Commons, The

A sweet tradition returns
A colorful portrait of a Vermont institution.

Obituaries

Daily

1st Place: Rachael DeVaney

Cape Cod Times

Wampanoag chief Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez dies at 100

A well-written and touching tribute to a leader in the Wampanoag tribe. This remembrance not only encompasses Silent Drum's life but also provides insight into the culture of Native Americans in Mashpee.

2nd Place: Edward Fitzpatrick

Boston Globe, The

Brown grad, named to Forbes 30 Under 30, dies after completing marathon

This remembrance offers insight into a fascinating young man whose life was cut way too short. It is a story well-told and very well-written, offering touching memories from friends and relatives.

3rd Place: Jennifer Toland

Telegram & Gazette

Togo Palazzi remembered for his love of Holy Cross

An extensive lookback at one of Worcester's sports legends. The story captures the essence of the man through both his own recollections as well as remembrances by others whose lives he touched.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Mark Pazniokas

Connecticut Mirror, The

Lowell Weicker, Connecticut governor and U.S. senator, dies at 92

A most impressive retrospective of the life of Lowell Weicker. This well-written, warts-and-all tribute leaves little out - the highs and lows of a remarkable life in public service. It is not a fawning portrait of the man, something the unapologetic Weicker himself might have found acceptable.

2nd Place: Michael Jonas

CommonWealth Beacon

Mel King: A singular Boston sensation

A well-written retrospective of one of Boston's most influential politicians. The tribute deftly captures the official and unofficial sides of the man providing a full portrait for both the informed and uninformed reader.

3rd Place: Matt Vautour

MassLive

Bill Russell's courage and character as a civil rights leader defined...

Instead of focusing on the sports moments that made Bill Russell great, this tribute rightly shines a light on his bravery off the court. It tells the story of the Celtics icon that has such an important place in history.

Weekly

1st Place: Colin Flanders

Seven Days

Remembering Peter Miller

A touching snapshot of the life of a documentary photographer. This story gets to the essence of who this man was and his lifelong search for beauty through his camera lens. Very poignant.

2nd Place: Rolf Parker-Houghton

Commons, The

Ambassador of art, love, and fun

An extensive look at one of the community's most beloved artists. Hearing the deceased's voice along with anecdotes and quotes from those who loved and worked with him paint a complete picture of a life cut short too soon.

3rd Place: Marianne Stanton, Jamie Cushman

The Inquirer and Mirror

Ethan Manske, everyone's friend at Stop & Shop, gone at 44

It's not just politicians and officials who are the lifeblood of a community. It's also people like Ethan Manske who make everyday life something special for others. This is a heartwarming tribute to him.

Outstanding Newsletter

Combined

1st Place: Staff

VTDigger.org

Final Reading

This "inside guide to the statehouse" is a terrific!

2nd Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

The Minute

3rd Place: Staff

Brattleboro Reformer

GreenMountain Newsletter

Overall Design and Presentation

(Niche Product)

Combined

1st Place: Kristina Walser and Christina Grogan

Boston Business Journal

Dec. 16, 2022 issue

Excellent use of the grid system with the narrow column to help add move the eye through the designs. Clean. Good impact with the illustrations and infographics. Easy to follow. Strong focal points.

2nd Place: Kristofer Rabasca

The Martha's Vineyard Times

EDIBLE-VINEYARD-IN-SEASON-2023

Good flow to the design throughout the publication. Consistency and simplicity make for an easy to read publication. Excellent use of white space.

3rd Place: Kirsten Thompson, Diane Sullivan,

John James

Seven Days

Kids VT: Muddy Buddies

Lively publication that caters to the audience. Excellent use of color and odd design shapes for a lively presentation that is kept simple. Nice "Gear Wheel" spread for the reader.

Overall Design and Presentation

(print newspaper)

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

"Historic and Catastrophic"/The Québec Issue

Easy to follow format that is consistent but offers surprises. Excellent food photos. Good pacing and consistent. Excellent pacing with the use of photographs, clean typography and formatting. Easy to follow forward with good use of contrast in the typography weight.

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Nov. 12, 2022 / April 15, 2023

Modern, clean, good contrast of dark/light in headlines and serif vs. sans serif. Good use of infographics and photos. Strong focal points and easy to follow pages. Clean. Good use of visuals to move you through the newspaper. Nice features spread throughout the newspaper for reader interest.

3rd Place: Staff

Christian Science Monitor

Season of Light- Monitor Holiday issue 2023

Consistent design that uses subheads and pullouts/factoids to add interest to the page with good dark/light contrast. Holiday section is well executed. Nice use of artwork/ illustration/ photographs for good pacing.



Overall Design and Presentation

(Special Section)

Daily

1st Place: staff

Christian Science Monitor, The

Reparations debate: mending the past, forging the future

The eye-catching design draws the reader through the section and ties it together.

2nd Place: Staff

The Republican

OUTLOOK 2023

This is a successful design and layout of a massive section.

Weekly

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

Seven Daysies 2022

This section is a masterpiece. The colors and the layout flow expertly throughout. For a section its size, it manages to engage throughout the read because it's so interesting to look at.

2nd Place: Jared Maciel, Susie Middleton

Vineyard Gazette

The Vine: Holiday Gift Guide 2022

Great local content, clean layout, and nice use of photos throughout.

2nd Place: Sarah Pope and staff

Addison County Independent

Celebrating Our Children

Well researched content with a great layout and provides a resource for the local community for early education services.

3rd Place: Breeze Staff

Valley Breeze

Valley Brews

Love the in-paper annual section that focuses on the popular niche of breweries and brew pubs. Excellent locally written content with interesting photos that complement the content.

Overall Design and Presentation

(Specialty pub)

Combined

1st Place: Tara Kenny, Whitney Multari, Jamie Kageleiry

Bluedot Living MV

Bluedot Living's Green Guide to Eco-Friendly MV

The colors, layout and use of space in this publication are magnificent. The content is well researched and like the way the layout complements the content with each story.

2nd Place: Matt Selva

Mainebiz

NextUp: 40 Under 40

A great layout and use of photos and graphics. Clean design and like the way they set up the big quotes on the pages.

2nd Place: Staff

Day, The

The Day Magazine

Clean layout, love the use of colors in the content and photos throughout. Good balance of content to ads throughout the magazine.

3rd Place: Mitchell Hayes

Worcester Business Journal

40 Under Forty, Class of 2022

Love the way they set this up with the cutout photos of those selected, the group shots, and use of white space makes this an engaging read.

Pandemic Coverage

Combined

1st Place: Corey McDonald

Other Paper, The

After loss of son, Vallee family to fund long Covid research

The Vallee family took their tragedy and used it to propel a search for researching a cure to this terrible virus.

Pandemic Coverage *continued*

2nd Place: Katy Golvala

Connecticut Mirror, The

Housekeepers know they're essential. They want to get treated like it.

Important story and exposure about how housekeepers have performed a dangerous job during the pandemic but were overlooked.

3rd Place: Lucia Maffei

Boston Business Journal

Who is local? A series looking at the impact of hybrid work

Well written and thought provoking.

Political Columnist

Combined

1st Place: Bob Waite

Ipswich Local News

Bob Waite Political Columns

In both "Sixty years ago this week - and against all odds - Ed Brooke won a historic victory" and "In today's world can a good person be a great president?" Bob Waite entertains educates readers with timely and important topics from decades ago that resonate in today's political environment.

Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage

Daily

1st Place: Andrew Rice, Vanessa Paoletta

Sun Journal

Draft resolution on diversity draws backlash

Digging by the Sun Journal unearths for the public and public officials a secretive and wrongheaded plan to spring a resolution sneakily to a vote. Balanced, fair account of this controversy.

2nd Place: Matt Martinez

The Berkshire Eagle

Teacher resigns after antisemitic harassment

Generally well-reported and explained.

3rd Place: Katie Mulvaney

Providence Journal

How Route 195 uprooted the Cape Verdean community

Solid story, illustrated with interesting old photos, dotted with informed interviews and featuring specific details about the loss of buildings in the neighborhood.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Dialynn Dwyer

Boston.com

27 nonbinary athletes are running the Boston Marathon

This is such an important story, not only for its informative look into the challenges nonbinary individuals face every day, but also the way it reveals how an organization as large, influential and deep-rooted as the BAA worked in developing greater inclusion via its new classification of nonbinary participants. Dialynn Dwyer did fantastic work reporting on their primary source for the story, as well as the myriad supporting sources to deliver this award-winning piece of journalism.

2nd Place: Alvin Buyinza

MassLive

Why race matters in murder cases

This compelling story clearly illustrated the disparity between how the legal system views and transacts matters and punishment against non-white and white subjects when mental health issues clearly played a role in the tragic situations affecting them. Alvin Buyinza dug in and effectively illustrated how several complex issues influenced these two cases, and his utilization of compelling sources helped propel the continuity and narrative of this piece to its conclusion.

Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage, *continued*

3rd Place: Auditi Guha **VTDigger.org**

Learning to drive

This writer did exceptional work weaving together relatable background on how the Taliban represses Afghan women into a highly readable and engaging story of two of those displaced women working to reclaim their lives and identities, and one of the growing number of individuals who committed himself to supporting their efforts. The style that Auditi Guha exemplified here, I hope, provided readers greater insight and empathy so they might better identify with refugees they might encounter in their own daily lives.

Specialty

1st Place: Lisa Lynn

VT Ski + Ride

VT SKI + RIDE: Culture Shift

Interesting piece on an unusual topic, which is treated fairly and openly. Varying views in the main story and personal sidebars on how race is treated or in play in skiing world add to this package. Well illustrated too. Good use of statistics where they count to help shape the main story.

2nd Place: Renee Cordes **Mainebiz**

Forces of Nature

Interesting and somewhat novel topic. Well written. Rife with statistics and varied interviews that make a strong case for the point of the piece.

3rd Place: Claudia Chiappa **Providence Business News**

Opening a Pathway

Worthy subject, well explained. Good use of statistics to show need for such a program. Wide range of interviews.

Weekly

1st Place: Andy Kirkaldy

Addison County Independent

Citing racism, Tiger girls say no to game

Solid, fair exploration of offensive remarks that prompted one town's women's basketball team to skip a game against the offending team. Includes a broad look at similar past incidents in Vermont.

2nd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Father-son conversation about football turns into film on racism

Nicely framed, warm story about how a father's epiphany sparked by his son leads to a film that brings him a greater understanding of native Americans. Revelatory about the film's genesis and its subjects.

3rd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Black history beyond the "wall of slavery"

Well-structured and informative piece that relates important history through telling quotes from two authors.

Reporting on Religious Issues

Combined

1st Place: Margaret Smith

Worcester Magazine

Ramadan, Passover and Easter for lifelong learners

Margaret Smith saw an opportunity to experience the convergence of three of the world's most important spiritual holidays and expertly placed herself right in the middle of it. This well-scripted and informative feature reinforces the commonalities among faithful and event hosts she covered, while flavoring it with just enough historical detail about the various faiths involved. Smith brings home to readers a genuine feel-good story about people of many different spiritual and cultural groundings coming together to celebrate each other's differences while acknowledging the challenges they face practicing their faiths while living in such a diverse community and time.

2nd Place: Corey McDonald

Other Paper, The

School rental to church sparks concerns on inclusivity

Corey McDonald presents a compelling and near-perfectly constructed lede pulling readers into an issue that could easily be defined - or dismissed - as a clear-cut church and state matter. Except at South Burlington School District. While reporting and interviewing exhaustively on the The New Life Baptist Church and its stance on 'homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality', McDonald asks hard questions and gets important answers that paint the local school district as an agency at war with itself, supporting diametrically opposing policies pitting inclusiveness against profit.

3rd Place: Katie Landeck

Providence Journal

Warren window

A boatload of religious education and history wrapped up in an extremely well-scripted mystery sums up what readers received in this spectacular Katie Landeck feature. The pacing

and flow of the writing compliments reporting that clearly shows a journalist-subject connection at every turn. This is a well-crafted piece that one hopes - appealed to a wide base of readers.

Right-to-Know

Combined

1st Place: Rich Saltzberg

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Oak Bluffs Fire & EMS Investigation

Keeping the government honest and transparent is a full-time job. Sometimes a single records request will be enough to produce a front-page bombshell, but more often the work of an investigative journalist is incremental in nature, requiring time and extraordinary diligence. So proved the MV Times' Rich Saltzberg, who has been doggedly reporting on a still-opaque FBI probe of questionable fire department and ambulance billing practices in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. Over four months at the end of 2022, Saltzberg brought three successful public records appeals to the Supervisor of Public Records, and at least two Open Meeting Law appeals to the Attorney General's Division of Open Government. In the process, Saltzberg out-dueled the Town's \$1000-an-hour lawyer from a noted global law firm. The newspaper acknowledges that its series so far "does not provide all sought-after answers in this long opaque affair. Rather, the reporter has carved another few sets of stairs in a mountainside. Eventually, a journalist or team of journalists will get to the top. But for now, the apex is a little bit nearer."

Right-to-Know *continued*

2nd Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

Former Stowe police officer under investigation

Here's how public records law are supposed to work. The Stowe Reporter sought to find out why a police officer had been disciplined and dismissed. The town denied much of the paper's public records request, and produced redacted pages of black in response to the rest. The Reporter called in its lawyer, who sued for the records, won, and collected his attorney fees from the town under the state public records law. Lessons learned: (1) Get your state to provide for recovery of attorney fees in public records disputes. (2) Don't give up.

3rd Place: Chris Van Buskirk, Noah R. Bombard **MassLive**

State's top medical school says UMass Memorial owes it \$40M.....

MassLive relied on close reading of the notes to a public audit report, strategic use of public records requests, and, apparently, the cooperation of some unnamed sources in order to shed light on a multimillion-dollar battle between two of the state's most noted medical institutions.

Science/Technology Reporting **Combined**

1st Place: Sophie Mann-Shafir **Provincetown Independent**

The Lesbian Seagulls That Revealed a History of Suppressed Science

A warm story about a talented NPR science reporter and a long-suppressed field of science.

2nd Place: Rowan Walrath **Boston Business Journal**

Microbiome comes of age

A clear, step-by-step story about a biotech startup and its bumpy but pioneering path toward a new field of medicine.

3rd Place: Chelsea Edgar **Seven Days**

Robots Did Not Write This Story

Charming story about AI and art, written in a very human spirit of amusement and humility.

Serious Columnist

Daily 1

1st Place: James Rinker **The Keene Sentinel**

The Check-Up with James Rinker

In The Check Up James Rinker shares his deeply personal journey and experiences. His honest and clear writing helps inform readers about some of the challenges LGBTQ+ community members experience. Rinker's willingness to share his personal journey and vulnerability displays true courage.

Daily 2

1st Place: Saralee Perel **Cape Cod Times**

Tony Bennett / Alzheimers Support

Like the words that she spoke to Tony Bennett, Perel's stories and columns come straight from her heart. Her writings are delightful and entertaining, even when she is writing about serious subjects.

2nd Place: Cynthia Simison **The Republican**

Be Human, be kind We can be both, Pearl Harbor Changed the World

3rd Place: Lawrence Brown **Cape Cod Times**

The town that ran out of Jews, and other stories & Seeing dangers ahead this 4th of July
TIE

3rd Place: Mark Patinkin **Providence Journal**

Mark Patinkin -serious columnist
TIE

Serious Columnist *continued*

Specialty

1st Place: Keith Gentili

New Boston Beacon

Cannon Fodder

Keith Gentili draws you in with his warm earnest writing. Both *Sorting through loss* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Lamppost* makes readers reflect on their own memories and losses. What a gift.

2nd Place: Renee Diaz

Worcester Business Journal

The Hustle is Real

3rd Place: Laura Roosevelt

Bluedot Living MV

Garden to Table, All Year Long

Weekly 1

1st Place: David Rocchio

Stowe Reporter

On snow / Memories of dad

David Rocchio's writing is descriptive and melodious, rich with emotion.

2nd Place: Carole Vasta Folley

Other Paper, The

What matters / Designed to a tee
Thought-provoking columns

3rd Place: Tamara Burek

Stowe Reporter

Marginalized folks / School choice

Weekly 2

1st Place: Bill Eville

Vineyard Gazette

Bill Eville

I would subscribe to this newspaper just to read Bill Eville's columns. He has a rare gift.

2nd Place: Bob Waite

Ipswich Local News

Bob Waite Serious Columns

Something wicked came this way - handled this horrific murder with sensitivity; Fr Verrill a blessing for reform.

3rd Place: Faith Gong

Addison County Independent

Faith Gong Covid family and November middle age

More entertaining than serious with the marriage bed and covid stories.

3rd Place: Kai Potter

Provincetown Independent

On the Landscape: "Stepping Into the Moonlight" and "The Remarkable Life of One Dead Tree"

Beauty of the moon and decomposition of trees.

Social Issues Feature Story

Daily

1st Place: Matt Martinez

The Berkshire Eagle

Hidden in plain sight

"Hidden in Plain Sight" is a well-written story with a level of detail and insight demonstrating the reporter spent time getting to know his sources. Clear, lyrical writing with strong, specific detail brings humanity to those who live in the shadows.

2nd Place: Katie Mulvaney

Providence Journal

Life after prison

Soulful writing and strong, specific detail bring home the stories of convicts seeking redemption. A good example of a solutions story, showing hope in addressing an otherwise intractable problem.

Social Issues Feature Story *continued*

3rd Place: Roberta Baker

New Hampshire Union Leader

Adult day care - a respite and a life-changer

Strong reporting combining pertinent contextual data with detailed personal stories to illustrate a potential solution to a growing national issue of assisting adults with dementia and their caregivers.

3rd Place: Christopher Butler

Enterprise, The (Brockton)

Hostile architecture

Good story that specifically looks at a form of gentrification experienced by the homeless and serves as an example of how entrenched this social issue can be as those without homes are dislodged from one location and then the next.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Pat Grossmith, Carol Robidoux

Granite State News Collaborative

Evicted in NH

This extensive series of in-depth stories is well-written and shines a light on the frightening plight of so many families.

2nd Place: Annmarie Timmins

New Hampshire Bulletin

'Independence is almost a God-given right.' Will lawmakers protect it in the budget?

Annmarie Timmins made a meaningful investment of time into this story. Providing rich details and personal stories with lots of data to help readers understand what is at stake.

2nd Place: Shaun Robinson

VTDigger.org

'It's never ending'

Honest profile of a local man's battle humanizing a growing issue.

3rd Place: Hadley Barndollar

New Hampshire Bulletin

How Manchester worked to prevent overdoses after large-scale drug trafficking bust

Fascinating look at the unintended consequences of large-scale drug busts.

3rd Place: Kiernan Dunlop

MassLive

One Worcester teen's struggle to find a home

Well written and told with empathy, Kiernan Dunlop shared the heartbreaking struggle of a homeless teen.

Specialty

1st Place: Timothy Doyle

Worcester Business Journal

Power through community

The Main South Business Association helps small, diverse businesses in the community. Well written with good information for the local businesses.

2nd Place: Sam Moore

Bluedot Living MV

"What's So Bad About Coffee?"

Fascinating read!

3rd Place: Isabel Tehan

Worcester Business Journal

The final drop

Revealing look at the numbers of women leaders.

Weekly 1

1st Place: Dan Fost

The Inquirer and Mirror

Special Report

Social Issues Feature Story *continued*

2nd Place: Staff

Mount Desert Islander

Downeast Gleaning Initiative nourishes neighbors in need

2nd Place: Erika Brown

Manchester Cricket, The

6,800 Miles to Halifax

3rd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Maiden's story one of empowerment

Weekly 2

1st Place: K.C. Myers

Provincetown Independent

Murder and Mental Health: The Case of Adam Howe

2nd Place: Louisa Hufstader

Vineyard Gazette

As Food Insecurity Rises, So Do Efforts to Curb It

3rd Place: Ella Niederhelman

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich School Swatting

Special Section or Editorial Supplement

Combined

1st Place: Staff

New Boston Beacon

New Boston Beacon is Thankful 4

Nice clean layout with easy to read text. The photography and typography is consistent throughout the publication. Loved the Nest logo!

2nd Place: Nicole Jackson

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Island Holidays and Gift Guide

Love the entire holiday theme, from festivals, Christmas displays to seasonal giving events. Creative use of color. Layout is very readable. Excellent photography!

3rd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Commencement 2023

Excellent job covering every high school graduation in the area. Wow! Loved the cover and wonderful photography throughout. You can feel the love and emotion with every event!

Special Sports Section

Combined

1st Place: Lloyd Jones

Conway Daily Sun, The

Spring Sports Preview

Great special section. The photos are terrific whether it's an action shot or a team photo. The layout is crisp and clean. The writing is so thorough and enjoyable to read.

2nd Place: Jamie Cushman

The Inquirer and Mirror

Inquirer and Mirror Fall Sports Extra

This special section is beautifully presented and chock full of valuable information to the local sports community. The layout is tremendous.

3rd Place: Staff

Ellsworth American, The

Tournament Issue

A complete guide to the local sports tournaments, with well written stories, use of color and photos that jump off the page.

Sports Columnist

Combined

1st Place: Karl Lindholm

Addison County Independent

Karl Linholm: Me & Matty, and The

Constigiones of Middlebury

What great research and writing about a Black Selma, Ala. born baseball player by this sports columnist coming from a very white state. William Clarence Matthews is a legend, but few knew until Lindholm went to work. Thanks for writing it.

2nd Place: Jim Johnson

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Fit to Play

College Football, Not What It Used To Be, is a wonderful historic look at the sport that captivates a national audience each fall. Yet few would know about the major differences through the years without this column. The column about swimming needs to be

3rd Place: Mark Daniels

MassLive

Mark Daniels columns in explanation

The judging had its fair share of Boston Patriots and Bill Belichick columns. Mark was a step above by pulling no punches saying the coach got what he deserved in the 2022 season and calling out terrible decisions.

Sports Feature Story

Daily

1st Place: Mark Jaffee

Republican-American

Special Report: Critical Condition

Thoroughly researched and reported story that conveyed an important need for the local (and beyond) community.

2nd Place: Mike Griffin

Republican-American

Waterbury's Baseball History

Enjoyable look back at the centerpiece of sport in Waterbury, with pertinent and interesting historical sidebars.

3rd Place: Shawne K. Wickham

New Hampshire Union Leader

Unified sports, unified schools

Enlightening story about the program and the humanity shown by the participants.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Matt Vautour

MassLive

Grieving Plainville family touched by USA soccer goalie's postgame gesture

Thoughtful and well-written story that was able to convey the emotions of Turner and of Malia's parents.

2nd Place: Karen Guregian

MassLive

What's keeping Patriots owner Robert Kraft out of the Hall of Fame?

Thoroughly reported, with solid quotes from the people who were important to the subject of the story.

3rd Place: Mark Daniels

MassLive

Here's how Patriots LB Mack Wilson overcame childhood adversity to thrive

An overcoming adversity story that hit just right.

Sports Feature Story *continued*

Weekly

1st Place: Steve Goldstein

Seven Days

Woman Wonder

Perfect use of words to convey how amazing this woman has been. Wow!

2nd Place: John Stanton

The Inquirer and Mirror

Maiden's story one of empowerment

The overcoming "you can't do this" story is often stale and hackneyed, but this account brought this story to life, especially with the nice coda of giving back as an education piece.

3rd Place: Tommy Gardner

Stowe Reporter

Stowe soccer squad is a band of brothers

Detailed and fun account of the pairs of brothers and cousins on one team.

Sports Section

Weekly

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

sports section, Andy Kirkaldy and staff

An amazing sports section that covers several local teams including Middlebury College. The photos are so clean and inviting. The writing is comprehensive yet easy to follow. Terrific layout as well.

2nd Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Inquirer and Mirror Sports Section

Really well written sports section. The photos make the stories pop. Crisp and clean graphics as well. Very thorough coverage of local sports for sure.

Daily and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Sports

Great source for everything Boston sports as well as national coverage. Great photos, well written stories and easy to navigate.

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

The Huddle, Sept. 6, 2022

Fantastic local sports coverage, very thorough and the photos and graphics are terrific.

Sports Story

Daily

1st Place: Henry Schwan

Telegram & Gazette

Ballpark figure

Well-reported take on a national issue, with lots of good voices.

2nd Place: Jennifer Toland

Telegram & Gazette

True starting five

3rd Place: Michael M. McMahon

The Keene Sentinel

Nick Cusack

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Mark Daniels

MassLive

How Patriots draft pick Christian Gonzalez became a bluechip prospect

Excellent job building tension at the top of the story. Well-reported and written.

2nd Place: Chris Cotillo

MassLive

Red Sox's Triston Casas ruffled feathers with pregame routine, learned valuable lesson in process

Sports Story *continued*

3rd Place: Sean McAdam

MassLive

Red Sox confronted starter Matt Dermody over deleted past homophobic tweet

Weekly

1st Place: Ken Picard

Seven Days

True Grit

The best stories take the reader someplace new, and this one certainly did. I could feel the mud caked to the bottom of my boots. Clear winner!

2nd Place: Zach Lanning

Mount Desert Islander

Referee shortage threatens youth sports

3rd Place: Jamie Cushman

The Inquirer and Mirror

Around the world with 11th Hour

Spot News Story

Daily

1st Place: Staff

Cape Cod Times

Gov. DeSantis flies migrants to Martha's Vineyard with promises of jobs

A comprehensive examination of virtually every angle possible involving the unexpected dumping of immigrant families in an unprepared town. Stories stand out for their depth of thought. The package benefited from added graphics and video.

2nd Place: Mark LaFlamme

Sun Journal

Thanksgiving Day 2022

On a short turnaround, the reporter did an excellent job exploring the painful details behind a tragic brother-on-brother murder that could have, and indeed should have, been prevented.

3rd Place: Greg Smith

Day, The

Off-duty New London cop among good Samaritans at scene

The lede story had a lot of really good information collected on deadline and presented well with strong photos. The sidebar featuring the good samaritan hero added depth. Solid package.

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff Reporters

The Associated Press

Titan Sub coverage

Well-written and comprehensive coverage of a tragic event. The articles offer a cohesive accounting of a multi-faceted and complex operation. Good job of staying on top of a story and following it through.

2nd Place: Chris Van Buskirk

MassLive

One migrant who arrived at Martha's Vineyard details journey as local officials plan next steps

A well-written and thorough assessment of the complicated issues and challenges involved when migrants are suddenly deposited in a community.

3rd Place: Heather Morrison

MassLive

Chicopee man tried to save 13-year-old after car crashed into house

I struggled with this story because it has a ton of excellent information and quotes but suffers from confusing structure and unanswered questions. In the end, the strength of the information won out. I would have ranked it higher if not for its flaws.

Spot News Story *continued*

Weekly

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

'Historic and Catastrophic'

There were a few Vermont flood reaction stories submitted across several divisions, this offering was by far the most thoroughly conceived and reported in a very short window. I could wax poetic, but simply, fantastic job.

2nd Place: Virginia Ray

Commons, The

Fire claims life of pub owner and brewer, destroys historic building

Kudos to the editors and staff for recognizing the significance of this tragedy and quickly composing a thoughtful and thorough history of a beloved community member. It's these kinds of stories that drive home the importance of community-based local journalism.

3rd Place: Brooke Kushwaha, Thomas

Humphrey, Noah Glasgow

Vineyard Gazette

Planeloads of Venezuelan Migrants Arrive at Martha's Vineyard Airport

It's a tie for third place with two very good, but very different stories. There were a couple of entries addressing the planeloads of Venezuelan Migrants dumped on Martha's Vineyard and this one did a better job of packing a lot of good detail into a well-organized and highly readable single story.

3rd Place: Randolph T. Holhut, Robert F. Smith, Jeff Potter

Commons, The

Shelter manager's violent death leaves a community stunned

It's a tie for third place with two very good, but very different stories. Reporting on the violent death of a cherished community leader isn't easy, but this package hits all the right notes while also calling appropriate attention to the sordid details that expose its avoidability.

Transportation Reporting

Daily

1st Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy, Bill O'Brien

Republican-American

Speed Kills

Strong package in Sunday Republican places speeding and other reckless driving behaviors in broader context. Reporters Tracey O'Shaughnessy and Bill O'Brien do their homework, meticulously documenting the deadly outcomes on Connecticut roadways while taking care not to overburden readers with statistics – a recurring problem with other entries in this category. Here, the stats confirm what many readers probably suspected all along: that declining traffic volume during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic helped normalize hyper-aggressive driving habits – especially with police reluctant to intercept violators due to social distancing concerns. Sidebar on red lights likewise serves up a balanced take on controversies surrounding use of automated cameras and/or other alternative enforcement measures to identify red light infractions.

2nd Place: Meg Britton-Mehlisch

The Berkshire Eagle

Pittsfield's sidewalks are crumbling underfoot

Berkshire Eagle reporter Meg Britton-Mehlisch does nice work with her tightly focused narrative on the sorry state of Pittsfield's sidewalks, an all-too common scenario in New England communities where long-deferred infrastructure maintenance has become business as usual. While her copy could have benefitted from more careful editing, Britton-Mehlisch assembles a diverse array of sources preaching sidewalk sanity – from the city's utility commissioner to 10-year-old cousins who walk two miles back and forth to school each day. Excellent infographic by Evan Berkowitz also contributes to this impressive package.

Transportation Reporting *continued*

3rd Place: Meg Britton-Mehlisch

The Berkshire Eagle

Flying into the eye of the storm

Meg Britton-Mehlisch hits a sweet spot with her charming, if unconventional, entry, “Flying into the eye of the storm,” chronicling her own experiences on Southwest Airlines while attempting to return home to Missouri for Christmas 2022. What could justifiably have been a first-person screed lambasting the incompetence of airline personnel and policies, instead becomes an uplifting (no pun intended) tale of unexpected kindness and compassion set against the holidays. Britton-Mehlisch doesn’t shy away from the many factors contributing to Southwest’s massive failures, which affected tens of thousands of travelers. But she never dwells on them, choosing instead to emphasize those human encounters among strangers which, in retrospect, were the most memorable gifts of all.

Weekly

1st Place: Joshua Balling

The Inquirer and Mirror

Proposed speed limit "catastrophic;" and

Compliance with regulations devastating

Comprehensive report on a federal plan to help protect migrating right whales by, among other things, restricting boat speeds in Nantucket Sound details how the island economy is especially reliant on water-borne transportation. Joshua Balling's two stories spell out clearly the misgivings of local officials and ferry operators, while providing helpful background on what is a critical matter to those who live and work on the island. What’s missing is reaction from the ordinary folks who rely on Nantucket’s ferries – regular commuters, transient workers or even high-school athletes – providing their own take on the impact of slower ferry speeds.

2nd Place: Elias Schisgall

Provincetown Independent

Traffic Safety: Three Route 6 Incidents Highlight Summer's Risks

Reporter Elias Schisgall’s coverage of an unusual accident scene on Route 6 in Wellfleet serves as a springboard for a broader look at plans to improve traffic safety along the Cape’s primary highway corridor. Parts of his narrative – especially those dealing with proposed improvements along the Outer Cape stretch – are a bit dry and transitions could use improvement, but Schisgall’s handling of a June 6 incident involving rogue motorcyclists is priceless.

Best Infographic on Website

Combined

1st Place: Erin Petenko

VTDigger.org

The Vermont Creemee Database

We love the interactive infographics to find and vote for your favorite Vermont Creemee.

2nd Place: Gabby DeBenedictis

Connecticut Mirror, The

How Connecticut passes its budget

3rd Place: John Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich Elections

Best Overall Website

Daily and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com

This site has it all, great use of white space and so much local content packed into an easy to follow grid and menu structure. Ads are not too disruptive to the viewing experience and like the way they add trending news to the top menu.

2nd Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive.com

Also a great use of white space and ads are not disruptive. When you start scrolling around sometimes the top menu falls off leaving you to use the side menu to navigate back to a section. Like the Latest section on the top of all pages.

3rd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

BerkshireEagle.com

This site has a lot of great content but could use some breathing room around it. The ads dominate the pages even when you are logged in distracting from the viewing experience. Like the Todays Top Headlines but would move this up so it is above the fold.

Specialty

1st Place: PBN Staff

Providence Business News

PBN Best Website

The site is easy to navigate and the responsive design makes it easy to navigate on desktop and mobile. The content is well written, up to date and there is a clear value proposition of their events and publications.

2nd Place: Kelsey Perrett, Alison Mead, Jamie Kageleiry

Bluedot Living MV

Bluedot Living Martha's Vineyard

Overall great graphics and visuals. The featured content particular to MV is engaging and informative. the menu is hard to follow because of the mix of local to national site content so a lot of windows open up. Love the vetted Marketplace section.

Weekly

1st Place: Linda Speight

Mount Desert Islander

Islander website

The site contains a broad range of content relevant to the local area. It is well organized with quality visuals on desktop and mobile. Really like the News from Our Advertisers and Calendar section.

2nd Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

vineyardgazette.com

It is an engaging well designed website with a lot of local unique content. Really like the Calendar, Time Machine, Nature and Science and Island Information sections; and how MV Magazine and the other publications are incorporated into the site.

3rd Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Martha's Vineyard Times website

Easy to navigate the site and a lot of local well written content. Great use of graphics and white space, and ads are placed well and do not interrupt the content. Like the Things to Do event section layout and the Quick Links.

Best Podcast

Daily

1st Place: Edward Fitzpatrick, Megan Hall, Scott Helman

Boston Globe, The

Rhode Island Report podcast

2nd Place: Staff

Christian Science Monitor

Good as Gould: The lasting echoes of an essayist's work

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Chris Cotillo, Sean McAdam

MassLive

The Fenway Rundown

2nd Place: Adam Drapcho, Julie Hart

Granite State News Collaborative

The Granite Beat Podcast

3rd Place: The Codcast

CommonWealth Beacon

Old North Church grapples with slavery

Weekly

1st Place: Noelle Annonen

Falmouth Enterprise, The

The Upper Cape Catch: The Great Turtle Escape

2nd Place: Eric Adams

Vineyard Gazette

Shed Podcast: Patty Favreau: Power in the Struggle

3rd Place: Noelle Annonen

Falmouth Enterprise, The

The Upper Cape Catch: The Other 24-Hour Clock

Best Use of Social Media in Breaking News

Combined

1st Place: Peter Chianca, Kevin Slane

Boston.com

Bostonians take their frustrations out on Skittles after viral tweet dunking on Bruins (etc.)

Creative and effective use of social media to enhance reader engagement in breaking news.

2nd Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive on TikTok

MassLive gets creative meeting new audiences where they are on social media, gaining new followers and expanding audience.

3rd Place: Abby Patkin

Boston.com

Is Christmas Tree Shops marking up to mark down?

Excellent use of social media to alert audience about potential shady practices.

Digital Strategy Excellence

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Brattleboro Reformer

GreenMountain Cannabis News

Outstanding initiative becoming the leading source of information in the state on the cannabis industry.

2nd Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

Vineyard Gazette Digital Strategy Excellence

Comprehensive digital strategies that are showing positive results.

Entertainment Video

Combined

1st Place: Eva Sollberger

Seven Days

Peter Harrigan Collected 600 Barbie Dolls in 30 Years

"A smorgasbord of delight!" Fun feature video about a Barbie collector.

2nd Place: Taylor Sanzo

MassLive

Taylor Swift shocked as piano starts playing by itself at Gillette concert (video)

Right place at the right time!

3rd Place: Alec Kerr

Conway Daily Sun, The

Discussion of M&D's production of "Boeing, Boeing"

Entertaining interview and behind-the-scenes look - fun!

Feature Video

Daily

1st Place: Peter Huoppi

Day, The

Wyland paints new whale mural in New London

This time lapse video of Wyland's whale mural was so well done. Excellent audio!

2nd Place: Alec Kerr

Conway Daily Sun, The

Pride Interview with Tranifer Lovely - CDS

3rd Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

80th anniversary of 1942 'Screaming Eagles' crash in Peru State Forest

3rd Place: Kristopher Radder

Brattleboro Reformer

Remembering Kayla Lackey

Feature Video

Weekly

1st Place: Eva Sollberger

Seven Days

Meet Earl & Jackson Ransom and Amy Huyffer of Strafford Organic Creamery

2nd Place: Allan Jung

Worcester Magazine

Antiques Roadshow at Old Sturbridge Village

News Video

Combined

1st Place: Eva Sollberger

Seven Days

Catastrophic Flooding in Vermont

Eva Sollberger skillfully blends photos of the devastation with interviews and personal (and very personable) phone calls in this video.

Really well done!

1st Place: Peter Huoppi

Day, The

Lindsay Davies: Ledyard volleyball's "bright light"

Well done sports feature video that captures the spirit of the team's "bright light"

Contemporary Issues Photo

Daily

1st Place: Ben Garver

The Berkshire Eagle

Pittsfield's homeless prepare for winter

2nd Place: Peter Pereira

Standard-Times, The

Drug addiction

3rd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Encampment

Feature Photo

Daily 1

1st Place: Dan Little

Daily Hampshire Gazette

WHERE THE FISH ARE

What a pleasant surprise in the category. Extra effort on photographer's part. Good job!

2nd Place: Marc Vasconcellos

Enterprise, The (Brockton)

Brockton High School students are all smiles for senior prom at Gillette Stadium

A real moment. Important to see in the news too.

3rd Place: Sarah Gordon

Day, The

Trotting into the water

Daily 2

1st Place: Don Treeger

The Republican

SPRAY PARK

I tend not to award shots like this because we have seen them so many times over the year, but when there's a real moment, the photo sings. Little guy's expression epitomized kids in the summer when it's hot.

2nd Place: Ben Garver

The Berkshire Eagle

Learning with the light of the moon

A nice surprise for a daily assignment or feature. Some technical problems with exposure (seeing pixels) but it's a nice shot. Solid for daily work.

3rd Place: Leon Nguyen

The Republican

Square One's Summer Field Day

I like the photographer's position - on the ground at the kid's level. I realize I chose photographs all of children, but they were real moments with expression, including this one. Good work for slow summer days.

3rd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

CW prom 1

What a nice moment of love between a father and daughter. I'm good with this placing - it's a genuine moment for a daily assignment.

Weekly

1st Place: Timothy Johnson

Vineyard Gazette

Barney Zeitz maintains the Civil War statue in Oak Bluffs

2nd Place: Tim Johnson

Vineyard Gazette

Fog envelopes joggers crossing the drawbridge

3rd Place: Jamie Cushman

The Inquirer and Mirror

Wipeout

General News Photo

Daily

1st Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

'Justice' for Yanna

Raw emotion =telling photo. Although I tire of seeing Black pain so much in the press, this photograph is a real moment, in real time, and photographer anticipated the emotion (watching in court).

2nd Place: Dana Jensen

Day, The

Welcome home, San Juan

This is a wonderful image. It would be stronger with a tighter crop. Person on the right in the background could be cropped out and photog could come up from the bottom (legs not important so much to me). Very telling image, with excellent rule of third composition. Nice to see the smiles. Don't be afraid to crop tighter, everything doesn't add to the photograph (minor detail but it matters in judging contests).

General News Photo *continued*

3rd Place: Gillian Jones-Heck

The Berkshire Eagle

Snow Day

What a GREAT angle/perspective through the trees. So, not only did photographer find people out in the snow, but added a layer in composition to frame them - works for me. I'd be very happy with this image for a slow snow day. This was a stand-out for me

Weekly and Online News Sites

1st Place: Glenn Russell

VTDigger.org

Tigray Protest

Her face says everything. The environment/background tells me the story right away.

2nd Place: Glenn Russell

VTDigger.org

Montpelier Flooding

Timing. What are the chances geese are going to just float by with breaking news? Had to acknowledge it.

3rd Place: Karen Wong

Duxbury Clipper

Banding ospreys by the bay

Timing made this photograph. Simplicity but also a moment.

News Feature Photo

Daily

1st Place: Sarah Gordon

Day, The

Welcome Spring

Really nice light, framing through composition, and layering.

2nd Place: Leon Nguyen

The Republican

National Adoption Day

A very tender moment. Nice use of depth of field.

3rd Place: Ben Garver

The Berkshire Eagle

Welcome in their own homeland
Great use of lensing and framing.

Weekly

1st Place: John S. McCright

Addison County Independent

She's got backup

2nd Place: John Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Book Signing

3rd Place: Gary Higgins

Boston Business Journal

Biden speech at Logan Airport

Personality Photo

Daily or Online News Site

1st Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Central Falls prom

2nd Place: Merrily Cassidy

Cape Cod Times

Happy birthday, veteran

3rd Place: David Sokol

WickedLocal

Drum Circle Smile

Weekly 2

1st Place: Coco McCabe

Ipswich Local News

Gather On The Green

2nd Place: Coco McCabe

Ipswich Local News

Personality Dance Photo

3rd Place: Larry Glick

Vineyard Gazette

Slurping up summer on the docks of Menemsha

Photo Illustration

Combined

1st Place: Ashley Carter

Mount Desert Islander

A merry cookie Christmas

This page oozes Christmas and evokes feelings of joy. Love it!

Photo Series

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

Historic July flooding in Vermont

2nd Place: Glenn Russell

VTDigger.org

Photo Series Flooding

3rd Place: Greg Derr

The Patriot Ledger

Photos: Weymouth double-murder trial closing arguments

Photo Story

Combined

1st Place: Coco McCabe

Ipswich Local News

Rowley Memorial Day Parade

Photographer/picture editor knew how to edit a story with a variety of angles, moments, and this worked because it was a nice edit with variety - good community journalism. It's not a serious story, and picture stories don't always need to be, but this is good reporting and a strong edit (love how photog took composition risks and they worked).

2nd Place: Colin Furze

Herald News, The (Fall River)

Romeiros make annual trek across Fall River on Good Friday

2nd Place: Merrily Cassidy

Cape Cod Times

Pilot whale stranding

Too many photo entries that are redundant. This could have been first place with more selective editing.

3rd Place: Hannah Schroeder

The Keene Sentinel

Keene family faces tough road amid state's housing crunch

Photographer clearly spent time with the family. Some nice shots (kid in back of the car), sibling love playing in the bed, but building mug shot completely unnecessary - it does not add to the story at all. Too many photographs touching mama's belly. Pick one, the strongest one, and go with it. Once we see it once, we get it. Really nice moments. Story suffers because edit needs to be tighter, my two cents. The entries in this category-across the board, desperately needed some hard decisions to be made, and so that speaks to me that our field needs more picture editors hired at publications.

Pictorial Photo

Daily

1st Place: Art Illman

The MetroWest Daily News

Tulips

This photo is well framed and the scene balanced. The colors pop and it fits the description of this category perfectly. I love the two sharp figures in the distance and the blur on the flowers getting sharper as it approaches them.

2nd Place: Colin Furze

Herald News, The (Fall River)

Nesting

Such a unique shot to capture it almost doesn't look real with the bridge outline through the fog. Good photo placement next to related content on this front page shot.

Pictorial Photo *continued*

Weekly

1st Place: Maria Thibodeau

Vineyard Gazette

Sea Smoke

This photo is spectacular. The neutral but distinct color tones are excellent throughout. The detail and the lone pier sticking out with the fog and land in the distance really captures mother nature delivering a show.

2nd Place: Kip Wing

Mount Desert Islander

Quiet reflection

This excellent drone capture at peak foliage is spectacular. The shot angle, colors, scene and reflections are absolutely gorgeous!

2nd Place: David Sokol

WickedLocal

Foggy Halloween

What a shot and quintessential Salem! To be in Salem on Halloween and capture this shot in the fog. It evokes mystery and like how none of the figures are that distinct.

3rd Place: Gordon Miller

Stowe Reporter

Spear Barn

Well balanced and framed shot. The colors really pop, quintessential Vermont scene.

3rd Place: George Clondas

Falmouth Enterprise, The

In Season cover pic

The colors in this shot are just spectacular. It evokes a Cape Cod sunset in the summer and love how it was used on the magazine cover!

Sports Action Photo

Daily 2

1st Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Track and field

2nd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Swimming

3rd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Volleyball

3rd Place: Ron Schloerb

Cape Cod Times

021623rs01a.jpg

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Steven Senne

The Associated Press

Acrobatic Tag at Second

2nd Place: David Sokol

WickedLocal

Incomplete

Specialty

1st Place: Gary Higgins

Boston Business Journal

Barrel racing in Norfolk, Mass.

2nd Place: Gordon Miller

News & Citizen

Pitch perfect

Weekly 1

1st Place: Al Frey

Shelburne News

Flying High

2nd Place: Al Frey

Other Paper, The

Blocked

3rd Place: Al Frey

Shelburne News

Taking a shot

Sports Action Photo *continued*

Weekly 2

1st Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

Kassidy dives

Nice action shot!

2nd Place: Coco McCabe

Ipswich Local News

The Switch Skate Park

Great angle!

2nd Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

Arm wrestling Evan Laroche

3rd Place: Zach Lanning

Ellsworth American, The

Victor's roar

I could feel the charged emotion in this photo.

Sports Feature Photo

Daily 1

1st Place: Hannah Schroeder

The Keene Sentinel

Monadnock final

2nd Place: Art Illman

The MetroWest Daily News

Winners and losers

2nd Place: Art Illman

The MetroWest Daily News

Jubilation

3rd Place: Dan Little

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Overtime Angels

Daily 2

1st Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Madness

2nd Place: Leon Nguyen

The Republican

Westfield River Whitewater Races

3rd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Softball

3rd Place: Ron Schloerb

Cape Cod Times

072223rs22.jpg

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Charles Krupa

The Associated Press

Boston College celebration

2nd Place: Katie Morrison-O'Day

MassLive

New challenge system gets put to use by the

WooSox on Friday night

Weekly

1st Place: Jonathan Fleischmann

Vineyard Gazette

Gatorade bath for Vineyard head coach Tony

Motolla

2nd Place: Lisa Lynn

VT Ski + Ride

VT Ski + Ride Diving In

3rd Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

OV boys hoop celebration

Spot News Photo

Combined

1st Place: Colin Hurd

Vineyard Gazette

Lightning Strike

A shot after midnight and the photog captured the lightening? Must place even if some tech problems - it was midnight and photographer went out to get the shot.

2nd Place: Merrily Cassidy

Cape Cod Times

Saving pilot whales

Good action shot. Photographer has a decisive moment with the body language, facial expression, and the whale is visible. A nice moment. Good reporting in caption - that also matters.

3rd Place: Rachel Sharples

Conway Daily Sun, The

River rescue

No caption under photo but read the story in the PDF. This photograph doesn't really have a "moment" per se, during this capture, so I would've been curious to see what else was in the take - was there more of a moment with emotion? This is after the height of action, I suspect. Regardless, rough waters, a small dog, and a rescue. Good daily work.

Business Innovation

Combined

1st Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

Free as the Wind: Juneteenth Jubilee on Martha's Vineyard

We applaud the Vineyard Gazette for this endeavor. The Juneteenth Jubilee is the perfect opportunity for the newspaper to use its resources to educate the public and encourage visitors to the Island, while creating revenue through advertising and grants.

Rookie of the Year

Daily

Alison Cross

The Hartford Courant



Rookie of the Year

Weekly

Trevor Meek

Ipswich Local News



Photojournalist of the Year

Kris Craig

The Providence Journal



Reporter of the Year

Meg Britton-Mehlisch

The Providence Journal



General Excellence

Daily 1

1st Place:

Brattleboro Reformer



2nd Place:

The Conway Daily Sun



Daily 2

1st Place:

The Berkshire Eagle



2nd Place:

Republican-American



3rd Place:

The Republican



General Excellence

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place:
Boston.com

2nd Place:
VTDigger.org

3rd Place:
The Connecticut Mirror

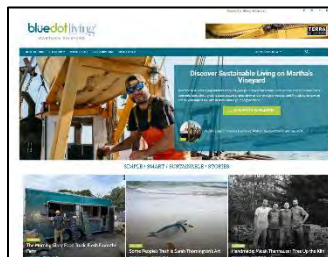


Specialty Publications

1st Place:
Bluedot Living
Martha's Vineyard

2nd Place:
Boston Business Journal

3rd Place:
Providence Business News



General Excellence

Weekly 1

1st Place:
Mount Desert Islander



2nd Place:
The Inquirer and Mirror



3rd Place:
The Harvard Press



Weekly 2

1st Place:
Addison County Independent



2nd Place:
The Ellsworth American



3rd Place:
Seven Days



