

# 2025 AWARD WINNERS AND JUDGES' COMMENTS

## NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION



## **Advertising**

### **Advertiser Campaign**

Combined

**1st Place:** Christy Lynn, Shannon Hart

*Addison County Independent*

Hare and the Dog

Very smart and effective small space campaign treatment for an advertiser. Repetitive and creative, this campaign is a winner!

**2nd Place:** Christy Lynn, Elsie Lynn Parini

*Addison County Independent*

Sunrise Orchards

Vibrant layout, logo and images makes this a successful campaign. A well constructed campaign with peripheral communication (newsletter, flyer) make this successful.

**3rd Place:** Katy Foote, Elsie Lynn Parini

*Addison County Independent*

Toad Hall Flowers

A memorable, great logo and gorgeous floral photography along with a great layout all contribute to this fantastic campaign.

### **Advertising General Excellence**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*News & Citizen*

News & Citizen

The News & Citizen has a wonderful balance of being smartly-designed and packed with information, advertising, etc. A wonderful community newspaper.

**2nd Place:** Addy Indy ad team

*Addison County Independent*

Addison Independent, general advertising excellence

This paper has it all. Bright, informative, ads, classified, editorial, obituaries.....all in a great visual package.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Stowe Reporter*

Stowe Reporter

The Stowe Reporter is like an old friend....someone you love to spend time with. Classically designed, packed with ads, information and strongly engaged with the community!

## Automotive Display Ad

Combined

**1st Place:** Ashley Carter

*Ellsworth American, The*

Stanley Subaru Autumn Gold

Effective and clear banner size auto ad with attractive seasonal background highlights looks fantastic!

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Mount Desert Islander*

Stanley Subaru - Solterra

Continuing a banner-size theme with a similarly effective background & product demo, this ad is clear and well-done.

**3rd Place:** Kristen Braley

*News & Citizen*

Lamoille Valley Chevrolet

Attention-grabbing photo leads a reader into this clear layout with great type treatment outlining prices and details!

## Best Ad Designer

Combined

**1st Place:** Sarah Pope

*Addison County Independent*

Sarah Pope, Best Ad Designer

THIS was a VERY tough category.

Sarah's work is consistently clear, with clean design and readability with fantastic typographic awareness. Some great visual solutions. Her secret weapon: A steadily well-designed approach with a clear demonstration of flexibility. Love this work!

**2nd Place:** Kristen Braley

*Other Paper, The*

Kristen Braley

Kristen's work is excellent. A signature style that is shown consistently from advertiser to advertiser. A distinctively clear design style and a great touch! Fantastic work!

## Best Health Ad

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Addison County Independent*

Advanced Hearing Technologies

**2nd Place:** Karen York  
*The Eagle-Tribune*  
SimplyFitandFun\_11280064.PDF

**3rd Place:** Jan Kenney  
*Williston Observer*  
Tight Club Health and Wellness Reset

### **Best Holiday Ad**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff  
*Times Record, The*  
Santa

The endless appeal of a traditional, American retro Santa Claus illustration is amazing. And completely enhances this holiday greeting from the advertiser. Simple and a winning look!

**2nd Place:** Jan Kenney  
*Williston Observer*  
Shelburne - Williston Meat & Fish Get Hopping for Easter  
VERY cute, eye-catching Easter bunny illustration brings you right into this holiday ad to get all the information you need! Nice one.

**3rd Place:** Ashley Carter  
*Ellsworth American, The*  
Ellsworth Jewelers Holiday  
Pow! This beautiful jeweler ad packs a visual punch! With their great logo - the holiday ad is finished with great product shots and a tree background!

### **Best Idea for Generating Revenue**

Combined

**1st Place:** Enterprise Newspapers Design/Production Team  
*Falmouth Enterprise, The*  
OnCape Magazine Best Of The Upper Cape 2024  
Beautifully-designed local magazine. Packed with local advertisers and tons of information about appealing nearby locales!

**2nd Place:** Addy Indy ad team  
*Addison County Independent*  
LDFLA Directory  
Digest, pocket-sized keeper publication highlights local spots, provides useful editorial for adventurers....and lots of nice local, color advertisers. Very enticing for prospective advertisers.

**3rd Place:** Mary Cowell-Sharpe

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

31 Days to Shop Local - Holiday Sweepstakes

Nicely done sweepstakes ads create anticipation, excitement and engage the community. Great way to create interest.

## **Best Sponsored Content**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Portland Press Herald*

Modern Pest - Missy on the Move

Missy on the Move is FUN, engaging and works so well to highlight sponsored content! Fantastic concept!

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Sun Journal*

Discover L/A Metro Chamber Sponsored Content

This chamber's targeted strategic content works so well, with the clear, concise layout. Very attractive.

**3rd Place:** Emily Butler

*Mount Desert Islander*

Smart Business

This business content should be a must for every market. This is well-designed and a very well-executed format.

## **Events**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Republican*

Reader Raves Annual Event

This READER RAVES event is just BEYOND on every level. Engaging the readership, voting, awards gala, the award ITSELF....the menu GOT me, though. The WHOLE thing is amazing and hoping it generated a TON of revenue!! GREAT.

**2nd Place:** Christy Lynn, Elsie Lynn Parini, Angelo Lynn

*Addison County Independent*

MMR Event

Graphically exciting all around. The web ads, the newsletter, social posts, posters...ALL of it. Really well-done and love the leaf mascot.

Fantastic.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Vineyard Gazette*

Jaws 50th: The Reunion

THE coolest opportunity to honor local history with something with profound social and cultural imopace. The event itself is amazing, and this reunion content is great. Even the ADS are great!

**Excellence in Revenue Collaboration and Partnerships**

Combined

**1st Place:** Addy Indy advertising & design

*Addison County Independent*

P&R Activity Guides

**2nd Place:** All Addy Indy staff

*Addison County Independent*

Early Childhood Guide

**Fundraising Strategy**

Combined

**1st Place:** The staff and board of The Concord Bridge

*Concord Bridge, The*

Our First Small-Donor Fundraising Campaign

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Lakeville Journal, The*

Lakeville Journal Fundraising Strategy

**Local Display Ad (Black & White)**

Combined

**1st Place:** Olga Donovan

*Mount Desert Islander*

Black Moon Public House

This small black and white is powerful. Nice logo & clear information, reads well & quickly!

**2nd Place:** Ashley Carter

*Ellsworth American, The*

Crocker House - 090524

Warm, cozy...this b/w ad feels exactly like the subject matter. A wonderful image of the restaurant with all of the information and contact info needed!

**3rd Place:** Katerina H Werth

*Stowe Reporter*

Body Lounge

This small space black and white ad is effective. Well-ordered. Image, product shot being focused on, and great, informational text.

### **Local Display Ad (Color)**

Combined

**1st Place:** Greg Douglas

*The Republican*

GOBO Lighting Services

A great local display ad. Very evocative atmosphere created with this well-done layout. Nice ad!

**2nd Place:** Katy Foote, Sue Leggett

*Addison County Independent*

Tourterelle - Fall Guide

Great typographic treatment and food photography make this ad inviting, clear and successful.

**3rd Place:** Greg Douglas

*The Republican*

Ioka Valley Farm

Small, but effective ad. Layout incorporates two great images and highlights the product / focus of maple!

### **Local Online Ad**

Combined

**1st Place:** Ashley Carter, Heather Eriole

*Mount Desert Islander*

Richard Henderson & Sons Forestry

**2nd Place:** Heather Eriole

*Ellsworth American, The*

Downeast Scenic Railroad Prohibition Event

### **Most Creative Use of Small Print Space**

Combined

**1st Place:** Greg Douglas

*The Republican*

Super Bingo - Polish American Club

Very small & super effective.

Solid visuals, clear information. Great small space ad!

**2nd Place:** Katerina H Werth

*Stowe Reporter*

Well Heeled

An appealing illustration of a shopper leads this ad, with a cleverly tied-in heading and clear retail information.

## Niche Publication

Combined

**1st Place:** Connie Berry, McKinley Sanders

*Vineyard Gazette*

Jaws 50th Commemorative Magazine

WOW! A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate a cultural moment! Great concept and execution. Really cool!

**2nd Place:** Katerina H Werth

*Stowe Reporter*

Stowe/Green Mountain Weddings

Fantastic, inclusive cover and gorgeous interior spreads and pages. A great guide for anyone planning a VT wedding!

**3rd Place:** Staff

*The Keene Sentinel*

The Business Journal of Greater Keene, Brattleboro and Peterborough

Clear, effective design highlights local businesses, tells their stories and draws attention to their community value. Great publication.

## Pure Advertising Niche Publication

Combined

**1st Place:** McKinley Sanders

*Vineyard Gazette*

Holiday Catalog 2024

Vineyard Gazette's Holiday Catalog is the epitome of local, local, local. Lushly-designed cover and filled with local vendor ads offering a variety of content, sales, coupons, etc. - this is what it's all about. Generating local revenue.

**2nd Place:** Mary Cowell-Sharpe, Robert Saurer, Staff

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

A Nantucket Christmas

Everything from the rate sheet to the publication is fantastic. A great compendium of local shopping and events. A true keeper!

**3rd Place:** Robert Saurer

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Beach House

An outstanding cover image is the grabber. Stylish, upscale and effective. Well-designed interior pages!

## Real Estate Display Ad

Combined

**1st Place:** Kristen Braley

*Stowe Reporter*

Pal Spera

## Special Section / Advertising Supplement

Daily

**1st Place:** Staff

*Portland Press Herald*

Thank A Nurse

With cohesive top banners throughout, engaging photography, a fantastic, appealing graphic format to present information in an interesting and memorable way....and the fact that it's just a HUGE celebration of amazing caregivers. THIS section is a WINNER! Great job.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Morning Sentinel*

Central Maine Graduation Guide

Yes, grad sections are a staple, but THIS one is SO well-done....and becomes a keepsake because of the grads, but ALSO because it looks so amazing! Cover photo and type look great and consistent attractive banners on the pages is great.

**3rd Place:** Michelle Johnson

*The Republican*

Cannabis Review Magazine Fall 2024 Edition

From the great masthead/logo on the cover, along with local photos, this section features great design throughout. An outstanding contents pages, engaging ads. Great design!

## Special Section / Advertising Supplement

Weekly

**1st Place:** Chausa Tra

*Ellsworth American, The*

Celebrate Youth Art Month

A fantastic event to celebrate. Great section. Great youth art, shown so well with this gridded layout! An amazing keepsake.

**2nd Place:** Enterprise Design/Production Team

*Falmouth Enterprise, The*

OnCape Magazine Holiday Songbook

Warm, inviting seasonal Songbook with lyrics, caroling suggestions & wonderful holiday greeting ads! A great section for extra distribution!

**3rd Place:** Addy Indy ad team

*Addison County Independent*

Profiles in Community, 2025

Snappy, clear graphic layout and a wonderful celebration of local community members. Nice one!

### **Themed Multiple Advertiser Page(s)**

Combined

**1st Place:** Chausa Tra & Staff

*Mount Desert Islander*

Early Bird Pajama Sale

Absolutely delightful niche concept!

Fantastic way to engage the community, build awareness and create a tradition. LOCAL at its best!

**2nd Place:** Staff

*News & Citizen*

Green Guide

Clear, well-designed niche/themed multi-advertiser pages, appealing local ads and interesting editorial!

**3rd Place:** Jan Kenney, Rick Cote

*Williston Observer*

Good Taste - Yum!

Great banner heading, vibrant ads....really wonderful section with interesting editorial - and has staying power. A great resource.

### **Promotion**

#### **Audience Building Promotion**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Ellsworth American, The*

Readership by the Numbers

**2nd Place:** Mary Cowell-Sharpe, Robert Saurer

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Get Off The Rock Contest

## Contests

Combined

**1st Place:** Addy Indy ad team

*Addison County Independent*

Winter Sweaters Coloring Contest

This contest is WONDERFUL. Something about a coloring panel engages EVERYone. SO cool to use this concept to create a DESIGN a winter sweater contest! Winner!

**2nd Place:** Kristen Braley

*Stowe Reporter*

Fall Foliage Photo Contest

Beautiful LOCAL photography is an advertisement in itself for this community. The layout is clear, direct, allows the work to shine.

All around satisfying contest.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Journal Opinion*

Pet Parade

Give 'em what they want! Readers want to SEE and SHARE their pets....and see everyone else's!! Well-done contest and page layout results!!!

## Newspaper-Sponsored Event Promotion

Combined

**1st Place:** Mary Sharpe

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Halloween Parade

Halloween. Everyone's favorite scary holiday. Very well done costume and holiday parade ads, including local advertisers. Clear information and engaging layouts!

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Lakeville Journal, The*

Lakeville Journal Street Fair

Attractive and vibrant layouts for the local Salisbury Fair. Very modern and clean type showing event details and all related information.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Vineyard Gazette*

Tuesdays in the Newsroom

Informative, community-engaging event. Great way to spark local interest in happenings and inform the public on the art of newsgathering.

## College Editorial

### Arts & Entertainment Page or Section

College

**1st Place:** Rin Pastor

*The Bowdoin Orient*

Bowdoin Orient Arts and Entertainment Section

Really nice work. Strong section, with many voices/authors on varied topics (poetry, theater, music, movies, etc.). Layout was clean. Nice, nice job!

**2nd Place:** Staff and Correspondents

*NECC Observer*

NECC Observer Arts and Entertainment section

Solid, strong spectrum of arts & entertainment stories that were really engaging. Nice job!

**3rd Place:** Hayley Doda

*The Equinox*

Arts and Entertainment Section 4/24

This section was the most organized with design. Nice, impactful opening page with nice use of photography. Stories were solid, interesting to read. All music on p2 of the section but they were all varied. Especially enjoyed the video game musical piece. Nice job.

### College Rising Star

College

**1st Place:** Alex Strand

*The Vermont CYNIC*

Alex Strand

### Critics Award

College

**1st Place:** Julz Levesque

*USM Free Press*

MovieTalk: Do The Right Thing

Very well done. Tongue-in-cheek, entertaining intro without being trite. Clear understanding of modern - and not so modern - cinema history. Reviewing older films for a new collegiate audience is a subgenre sadly missing from many college publications, and even professional news organizations. Writing style is conversational without being cliché. All in all, a very entertaining and informative read, whether you've seen Spike Lee's seminal film or not.

**2nd Place:** Maya Jacobs

*The Sophian*

I Ate the Stew: What Happens When A Meme Page Can See Its Audience

It's not an easy job covering a stand-up comedy set, especially when there are missteps by the comic. Jacobs does a nice job here keeping the critique real, offering sincere criticism without

snark, while at the same time setting the scene with detailed description. Weaving in Smith trivia as related by the performer is also a nice touch.

**3rd Place:** Olivia Petty

*The Sophian*

Just When You Thought You Couldn't Feel More, Adrienne Lenker Plays the AOM Theater

Set the scene nicely with colorful description of venue and fan loyalty; nice turns of phrase throughout the review and a keen eye for detail. Clear understanding of music writing. Set list a nice touch.

## Editorial

College

**1st Place:** Tomas Hinckley

*The Daily Campus*

Editorial - Enrollment growth

An exemplary editorial that combines rigorous research with clear argumentation to examine the consequences of enrollment growth for students and the surrounding community. The piece excels in marshaling specific data—enrollment figures, housing capacity, economic demographics—to build a compelling case about institutional sustainability and gentrification, while demonstrating concrete stakes for both campus and town. Though careful copy editing would tighten the text further, this represents strong editorial writing: evidence-based advocacy on a significant issue with clear relevance to its audience.

**2nd Place:** Huntington News Editorial Board

*Huntington News*

"Our First Amendment rights are under assault"

This forceful statement by the editorial board addresses a critically important topic—First Amendment rights and academic freedom under governmental pressure—with particular strength in demonstrating concrete stakes for students, especially the consequences for international students. However, the piece's persuasiveness is weakened by its failure to engage the administration's perspective: serious institutional criticisms require documenting what officials say in response, then rebutting those positions, rather than treating administrative silence as established fact.

**3rd Place:** Taylor Abrams

*The Vermont CYNIC*

Burlington doesn't look like shit. Humanity does.

A well-researched and fair-minded examination of how a particular social media site dehumanizes Burlington's homeless and addicted populations, with good sourcing and the issue's connection to the UVM community. Though presented as an opinion column rather than a traditional editorial, the piece navigates a complex social issue with appropriate nuance, acknowledging both legitimate safety concerns and the moral imperative to treat vulnerable people with dignity.

## Feature Story

College

**1st Place:** Alex Strand

*The Vermont CYNIC*

Crossing borders: the complexities of Indigenous studies and identity in Vermont

This competition category had 21 entries, with many, many excellent entries. It was very difficult to judge. This story was truly excellent, and hit all the marks of a superior feature story for this audience - thorough, well written and researched, artfully told, and fundamentally connected to the VT college (and larger) community with implications far beyond these. Great job.

**2nd Place:** Alain Puma

*The Gatepost*

Making Framingham home: Brazilian community key to downtown's economic revival

A lovely story to read, regardless of whether you're in the college community or not. An excellent example of good observation, and listening, and storytelling that brings to life the critical place of downtown Brazilian businesses in local life. Nice job.

**2nd Place:** Grace Wang

*The Vermont CYNIC*

How DOGE is changing the forestry landscape at UVM

A very interesting, "surprising yet not surprising" story about important "legacy level" forestry/open space impacts of impulsive cuts to critical portions of the US federal budget. Thought provoking, well researched and written. Important. Great job.

**3rd Place:** Auden Oakes

*Huntington News*

"Who's the man biking around Ruggles? Uncovering the identity of the 'Centennial Cyclist.'" I loved reading this piece, and somehow felt like I was a part of this neighborhood. Well written, personal, nice. Great job.

**3rd Place:** Megan Richards

*The Berkeley Beacon*

The Emerson connection to the 1970 Kent State shootings

This piece accomplished something difficult. Modernizing a truly important historical event that is often forgotten, but so relevant today. And it's done through the lens of the college / Emerson community, which makes it quite effective. Very good.

## Front Page

College

**1st Place:** Maren Halpin

*The Suffolk Journal*

The Suffolk Journal - Nov. 21

An inviting, packed front page. Varied stories, excellent layout and use of photography, with so much going on but well laid out so the page is easy to navigate. On newsstands, this would sell! Nice job.

**2nd Place:** Mary Henthorn, Andy Ton, Subi Kalra

*The Bowdoin Orient*

The Bowdoin Orient Front Page ISSUE 12

Elegant, reserved layout. Stories are strong and focused on readership (not syndicated or statewide pieces), with spare use of photography (just one, but it's excellent). Nice job.

**3rd Place:** Timothy Fitzpatrick

*The Equinox*

The Equinox Front Page Vol. 79 Issue 25

Very eye-catching front page, with stories that run a wide spectrum of relevant topics for the local college audience. Interesting use of the photo behind the nameplate/banner ... took me a second to realize it's a teaser for an arts feature inside the paper. Clever.

## Good News Award

College

**1st Place:** Carly Philpott

*The Bates Student*

Bates Celebrates 50th 'Puddle Jump' With Original Founders

This lively story stands out from the entries in this category with the amount of sheer joy it conveys. Carly Philpott picks up on the small details that combine to create a beloved campus tradition. She straddles a fine line in quoting the founder of this event, whose self-deprecating quotes could easily make him look like a caricature. Instead, he comes across as human and justifiably proud of a 50-year legacy. It's fun, it's weird, and it works. Loved the photo gallery, too.

**2nd Place:** Daniela Valdivia--Terres

*NECC Observer*

Striving for success

Daniela Valdivia-Terres has reported a good story on an important topic at a time in our history when first generations of anything — from students to citizens — are increasingly vulnerable. The lede got bogged with an overwhelmingly lengthy quote that would have benefitted from editing into partial quotes and paraphrases. But it was great to see such student voices front and center. May they succeed in their journey.

**3rd Place:** Charley Tyson

*The Vermont CYNIC*

Student raises nearly \$10,000 for UVM Dining worker whose home was damaged in a fire  
Charley Tyson's story about a student effort to raise funds to help a displaced food service worker is solid and well-crafted, and she finds an impressive number of sources to speak highly of her subject. But the quotes stop short of being able to let us really feel the love and respect that people clearly have for someone who underwent a terrible ordeal. The story did such a good job that it left your judge wanting just a little more.

## Graphic Illustration

College

**1st Place:** Katerina Parizkova

*The Quinipiac Chronicle*

'Sunrise on the reaping' graphic illustration

Elegant and well placed among text, these illustrations are strong and beautifully-done. Winner!

**2nd Place:** Emma Clement

*The Daily Free Press*

Graphic Illustration

Visually appealing style really enhances this cover. Color is strong and effective.

**3rd Place:** Elijah Fisher

*The Equinox*

"Citizen Hootie"

Effective and dramatic illustration enhances this editorial content well.

## Headline Writing

College

**1st Place:** Soob Soobitsky

*The New Englander*

It's sap season at Henniker's Intervale Pancake House

**2nd Place:** Emma Kostyun

*The New Hampshire*

Lobstermen Are Scientists, Too.

## In-depth Reporting

College

**1st Place:** Nicole Abrams

*The Daily Free Press*

'I'm going to get killed': Boston cyclists stress need for better bike infrastructure

Excellent story for its identifying a truly critical and life-threatening issue, backed by interviews, real people, and thorough research. Very, very good.

**2nd Place:** Liliana French

*The Daily Campus*

In-depth - 245 program cuts

Very interesting piece on a sweeping change in academic programs and curriculum that reflects the time we're in today at universities across the country. Very thoroughly researched, supported by on-record interviews. Nice job.

**3rd Place:** Nathan Hope

*The Equinox*

TKE SUSPENDED FOR 24/25 ACADEMIC YEAR

Really nice piece on a troubling trend in frat life. This reporter obviously secured hard-to-access on-the-record details that gives this story the power of truly understanding how dangerous "fun" can be. An important story, well told.

## Multimedia Reporting

College

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Vermont CYNIC*

Live updates: 2024 presidential election

**2nd Place:** Lauren Hall/NewEnglander Staff

*The New Englander*

NEC legal expert explains Sean "Diddy" Combs' federal indictment

## New England College Newspaper of the Year

College

**1st Place:** Ryan McElroy, Madeleine Kaptein

*The Middlebury Campus*

Solid election edition, coverage often ignored or skimmed over by news outlets.

Zeitgeist issue: Plenty of angles, good use of graphics. Love the initiative in that this exists and has run for seven years. There's evidence on their website that these two contest entries are not the only commitment to enterprising work, with several years worth of projects available to read online. Polished presentation overall in print, and website looks as good as some professional news sites.

Does daily news get as much attention as their enterprise? The website suggests it does. Would have been nice to replace one of those entries with another daily edition to showcase other news.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Suffolk Journal*

This paper is well presented and packed with news, all the way to its sports section. Points for news judgement on page one and the first few pages of the paper; space and time spent rehashing national news could be better spent using the same student-focused choices as those on the front page.

Perhaps even more important these days, its website and social media offer an attractive, easy-to-navigate news source with the same newsy feel of its print edition.

**3rd Place:** The Gatepost

*The Gatepost*

The writing stands out as consistently stronger than other papers; print presentation is solid, but the website needs work on its look and ease of navigation.

Police log and "Campus Conversations" are a nice touch, features that used to routinely exist in papers but have been dropped in times of "unpublish" requests and increasingly limited space and staff. Bet the students like both.

## News Story

College

**1st Place:** Carly Philpott

*The Bates Student*

Ballot Issue Asks Mainers to Return to Original State Flag Design

"Ballot Issue Asks Mainers to Return to Original State Flag Design" is engaging, explanatory journalism. The reporter's story is interesting to read — clean, readable prose with solid transitions; the quotations are well chosen; the anecdotal detail (Lemire and his son) humanizes a policy question. It is well-reported because it has solid sourcing across perspectives (legislator, designer, historian, business owner); the historical context is essential. Also, the ballot mechanics and legislative history are clearly laid out and accessible for readers.

**2nd Place:** Gryffyn May

*The Sophian*

Union Faces Resistance Over Worker Protections in Contract Negotiations

"Union Faces Resistance Over Worker Protections in Contract Negotiations" is a noteworthy example of how reporting on complex labor concepts (status quo period, NLRB rulings) is best conveyed using accessible language, clear prose, purposeful quotes. A complex story with moving parts made understandable.

**3rd Place:** Zoe MacDiarmid

*Huntington News*

"Northeastern student identified as engineer for Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency": A successful localization of a national investigative story for a campus publication.

## Opinion Page

College

**1st Place:** Abdullah Hashimi

*The Bowdoin Orient*

The Bowdoin Orient Opinion Page from March 28

**2nd Place:** Colbi Loranger

*The Daily Campus*

Opinion Page

**3rd Place:** Quinlan Cooke and Correspondents

*NECC Observer*

NECC Observer 2024-2025 Opinion section

## Protest and Demonstration Coverage

College

**1st Place:** Adri Pray and Yogev Toby

*The Berkeley Beacon*

Police body camera footage shows use of force against protesters

A deeply detailed investigative piece that leans on primary source material from the body camera footage. The narrative is chronological and granular, giving the reader a clear sense of how the encampment escalated and how law enforcement interacted with the students. The inclusion of direct quotes from body cam footage adds a vivid, narrative quality that's tense and complex. At times, the piece feels a bit overwhelming due to the sheer density of procedural detail and actions, but that's also a strength setting it apart from standard protest coverage. This is highly ambitious student journalism with excellent sourcing, clear attention to factual nuance and a compelling portrayal of the stakes for all involved. Bravo.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Daily Free Press*

Men's March against abortion meets counter protests along Commonwealth Avenue

The reporting succeeds because it is expansive without becoming chaotic. Readers hear from pro-life march organizers, counter-protesters, union leaders and others, allowing the contours of the conflict to emerge organically. The writers document friction, arrests and emotionally charged rhetoric while maintaining attribution and avoiding overt editorializing. Particularly effective is the effort to humanize participants on both sides without sanitizing or endorsing those positions. The principal weakness lies in the piece's occasional reliance on highly charged language from sources without contextual framing or corroboration. Overall, an impressive piece that shows controversy is best illuminated through breadth of sourcing rather than amplification of a single narrative.

**3rd Place:** Emma Kilbride

*The Bowdoin Orient*

Students for Justice in Palestine form encampment in Smith Union

A strong live blog-style piece of fast-developing campus journalism that demonstrates clear command of reporting under pressure. The piece has effective scene-setting and diligent timeline construction. The writer succeeds in capturing the immediacy and emotional tenor of the encampment while grounding the narrative in verified statements, on-the-record administrative responses and clear attribution. The use of time-stamped updates for these live updates adds transparency and credibility, and the piece does a commendable job explaining the broader political and institutional context—particularly the Bowdoin Solidarity Referendum—without losing focus on what is happening on the ground. Again, coverage could have benefited from additional balance and depth with administrative and dissenting perspectives. Still, this is impactful, ambitious student journalism that reflects real reporting effort and ethical care.

## Social Media Portfolio

College

**1st Place:** Annika Sunkara, Jake Guldin, Eli Curwin

*Huntington News*

The Huntington News

The Huntington News demonstrates outstanding social media engagement through a versatile, platform-native approach that combines explanatory graphics, analysis-driven video, and man-on-the-street reporting. Submissions such as the timeline graphic on Northeastern’s response to the Trump administration, policy analysis videos, and student interviews around the Beanpot rivalry show strong journalistic judgment, effective use of multimedia, and clear impact in sparking campus conversation and audience interaction.

**2nd Place:** Nellie Zygiel

*Amherst Wire, Daily Collegian*

2025 Senior Columns Showcase

The 2025 Senior Columns Showcase post creatively engages audiences by highlighting senior voices through thoughtful quote selection and visually cohesive design. By blending brand elements with an emotionally resonant graduation theme, the post effectively draws readers into the students’ work and demonstrates strong audience connection through a single, high-impact engagement effort.

## Special Section or Editorial Supplement

College

**1st Place:** Miles Berry, John Schubert

*The Bowdoin Orient*

Bottoms up: Exploring the past 30 years of alcohol culture at Bowdoin

## Sports Game Story

College

**1st Place:** Sophia Oppedisano and Taylor Kimmell

*The Gatepost*

Men's basketball wins first playoff game in 15 years in spectacular fashion

Great coverage of the 1st playoff win in 15 years. The writers were able to project the importance of this huge game. Not only were the game details incredibly concise but they were also successful in capturing the electricity in the gym.

**2nd Place:** Carson Flake

*The Equinox*

LEC TITLE RETURNS: Men's basketball takes home another conference championship

Great job of capturing all the key moments in this conference championship game. The photos were extraordinary as they touched on many important aspects of the team.

**3rd Place:** Ava Arepally, Margaret Unger

*The Bowdoin Orient*

Men's hockey notches shootout win over Colby in 223rd rivalry game

Terrific coverage of an intense rivalry game. The writers were able to convey just how important this game was to both teams and the play-by-play coverage was first rate.

## Sports Story

College

**1st Place:** Mitch Fink

*The Daily Free Press*

Cole Eiserman hears the doubts surrounding his score-happy game.

An excellent, in-depth piece that expertly balances between-the-boards insider hockey knowledge with compelling quotes and probing questions about a generationally-talented hockey player who may – or may not – have been painted with an overly critical brush. Lengthy piece, but easy to read and doesn't bog down.

**2nd Place:** Colin Kennedy

*The Quinnipiac Chronicle*

Before the Bronze - Ilona Maher's path to Olympic stardom

Nice work getting an in-depth interview with one of the hottest names in sports last year. It

obviously doesn't hurt, but makes it all that much more relevant, that she's a Quinnipiac alum.

Nicely informed by quotes from her former coach. A well-balanced and well-written portrait of an "amateur" athlete at the top of her game – and the media spotlight.

**3rd Place:** Anna Knepley

*The Berkeley Beacon*

Emerson College welcomes first female baseball player, Laney Fukuoka

Sometimes the subject matter dictates the impact of a story. That's the case here. But not every writer has the ability to do it justice. Knepley has deftly written an entertaining, quote-driven

piece that answers the questions even the casual sports fan might have about a young woman playing a man's sport. I look forward to the follow-up to learn how she fared.

**Honorable Mention:** Cameron Levasseur

*The Quinnipiac Chronicle*

An inside look at Quinnipiac hockey's move from CCM to Bauer

HONORABLE MENTION: It doesn't get more "inside" than this. An incredibly detailed and informative piece about what may not seem like such a big deal to the casual sports fan - getting free gear as a college hockey player - but in actuality a true moment of inflection and a major decision for the athlete. An insightful examination of the big business of Div. 1 college hockey. Well written and compelling.

**Honorable Mention:** Izabela Gage

*The Gatepost*

A night in the rain shows women's soccer's resilience

HONORABLE MENTION: Excellent description and vivid detail, bringing the reader onto the soccer field on a dreary early spring day in New England. Gage does an excellent job capturing what it's like to be a collegiate athlete at a small school with no indoor training facility to fend off inclement weather: It's all about heart, passion and love for the sport.

## **Student Press Freedom or Right-to-Know**

College

**1st Place:** Aiza Shaikh, Joey Gottlieb, Liliana French

*The Daily Campus*

Right to Know - FOIA emails

Significant reporting effort (including review of 670-pages obtained through FOI, interview requests with multiple university figures and sources; with a review of public comments and responses. Breaking this into main and sidebar might have made is an easier reader, but the substance in excellent.

**2nd Place:** Eli Curwin

*Huntington News*

"Faculty express concern, frustration with Northeastern academic freedom policies"

Story was tracked over multiple months and provides an extended look at the issue -- from policy set and later withdraw, to faculty views on academic freedom and First Amendment rights of assembly and petition.

## Top College Journalist

College

**1st Place:** Olivia Petty

*The Sophian*

Olivia Petty - Top College Journalist submission

All entrants were outstanding. It was a privilege to read their submissions, which represent affirmations of the bright futures that lie ahead for these candidates. We'll be hearing from them in the years to come.

This year, Olivia Petty stands out among this group of high achievers as the 2025 winner of the New England News & Press Association's Top College Journalist award, part of NENPA's New England Better Newspaper Competition.

Ms. Petty has a voice that captures and holds her audience, a finely tuned ear for dialogue, and a span that can carry her readers from the "symbiotic nutrient exchange" of plants, to the "googly-eyed" pleasure of one chef's take on Afghan cuisine, and to the ups, and some downs, of Shakira's kickoff of a west coast concert tour. Excellent reporting and writing.

## College Multimedia

### Best Podcast

College

**1st Place:** Ella Beiser

*The Bates Student*

Busking for Reparations: A Bid for Repair through Art

**2nd Place:** Leah Pereira, Sophia Schlichtmann

*The New Hampshire*

Are you caught up on the Wildcat Word Podcast?

**3rd Place:** Natalie Richardson-Wymore and Charlotte King

*The Vermont CYNIC*

In the Mix: sex education to college life

### Online News Site

College

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Daily Free Press*

The Daily Free Press Site

The Daily Free Press delivers a comprehensive, frequently updated online news site with strong content quality, polished visual presentation, and clear navigation. Effective use of photos, links, and layout makes the site highly usable and valuable as a primary news source for its campus audience.

**2nd Place:** Arielle Rabinovich

*Huntington News*

huntnewsnu.com

The Huntington News offers timely, consistently updated campus coverage supported by clear navigation and strong overall usability. While the visual presentation is more functional than refined, the site excels in serving its audience as an active and reliable online news source.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*The Quinnipiac Chronicle*

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

The Quinnipiac Chronicle presents relevant, timely campus reporting within a clean and accessible homepage layout. Expanding the use of photos and visual elements would further strengthen engagement and enhance the site's overall visual appeal.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*The Vermont CYNIC*

The Vermont Cynic

The Vermont Cynic demonstrates strong campus journalism and a clear editorial voice that serves its student audience well. Improvements to homepage visual consistency and layout would elevate usability and strengthen the site's impact as an online news destination.

## College Photography

### Feature Photo

College

**1st Place:** Maddison Behringer

*The Gatepost*

Magic at Mile 6

Nice expression and moment from the marathon.

**2nd Place:** Emma Meidinger

*The Daily Campus*

Feature Photo

Fun winter photo.

**3rd Place:** Tyler Mignault

*The Quinnipiac Chronicle*

Quinnipiac and Sacred Heart go head to head in Dining Chef Throwdown

This doesn't quite fit into the feature category, which is typically a found moment, however, it's a decent image from an event.

## General News Photo

College

**1st Place:** Nick Peace

*The Suffolk Journal*

Boston police arrest counter-protester at Nov. 16 "Men's March"

Nice, peak spot news moment.

**2nd Place:** Joe DiMartino

*The Bates Student*

Making a Splash at Puddle Jump

Nice expressions, interaction, and action.

## Photo Series

College

**1st Place:** Devyn Rudnick and Chloe Craft

*Huntington News*

"Boston's mass mobilization: 18 images from the 'Hands Off' rally"

This entry was a clear first place. The photographer captured a variety of moments and showed the scene of a protest from different angles.

**2nd Place:** Maddison Behringer

*The Gatepost*

Boston Marathon

Nice variety of images

**3rd Place:** Anna Siegel

*The Sophian*

So Sad in This Beautiful Place: Water From Your Eyes Live at The Drake

There are a couple strong images here. Wish it had all been in color or black and white instead of a mix.

## Sports Photo

College

**1st Place:** Tripp Menhall

*The Quinnipiac Chronicle*

Quinnipiac men's ice hockey at Madison Square Garden

Nicely framed and graphic image.

**2nd Place:** Connor Sharp

*The Daily Campus*

Sports Photo

Great moment from her final collegiate game. I wish it would have been cropped slightly for impact.

## Editorial

### 250th Celebration Coverage

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Christian Science Monitor, The*

250 years of Revolution: What has 'the shot heard round the world' wrought?

**2nd Place:** Tom Benoit

*Lexington Minuteman*

Battle of Lexington 250th anniversary. What reenactors want you to know

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Gloucester Daily Times*

250

### Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Kendra Nordin Beato, Alfredo Sosa

*Christian Science Monitor, The*

'I didn't know I needed it.' Why neighborhoods rally to save movie houses.

This highly engaging reported essay tells a compelling story about communities organizing to save cinemas. Widely reported -- marshaling insights from film scholars to projectionists -- the piece goes beyond describing efforts to keep movie houses in business to consider WHY experiencing movies in public among strangers matters to individuals and to social cohesion. Beato fully earns the use of first-person here, contemplating her own experiences of movie-going in light of what her reporting and research revealed.

**2nd Place:** Annie Jonas

*Boston.com*

Why Boston is a comic book hub — and still nerdy (in the best way)

A story about Boston's comic book scene might have drawn only a niche audience, but Jonas makes the subject fascinating for a general readership with vivid description, lively writing, and a strong "so-what." She places the scene in economic and national contexts, as she shows how local comic book stores function as "cultural incubators."

### Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Weekly and Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Aaron Calvin

*Stowe Reporter*

Steel & Stone

Aaron Calvin's piece about artist Christopher Curtis toggles back and forth between art forms of metal and stone. It is both elegantly and ruggedly told, accompanied by wonderful photography. The reader gets a deep understanding of a unique artist's physicality with his pieces and the bold impact of the work. Well done. Beautifully told.

**2nd Place:** Emma Kilbride

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

Wil Sideman's Art of Glass

I loved this telling of an artist's affair with his work and place. Emma Kilbride's writing and Ray Ewin's photography present Wil Sideman as an everyday man, blending his glass blowing art with his business. I found this section of the story particularly convincing: "Part of the appeal for Sideman is that glass is notoriously difficult to work with. The challenge of the material is that it holds a grudge. 'Glass has a memory,' he said. 'Unlike a lot of other materials, when you're working with hot glass, you do something to it, it remembers. If you put a sharp corner into something, you can't really just get rid of that.'"

**3rd Place:** Mary Ann Lickteig

*Seven Days*

Reel Drama

Mary Ann Lickteig provides a comprehensive and human examination of Vermont's teetering cinemas. This is both a story about lost arts venues and a collapsing business model. There's a significant personal element to this piece, as we learn about those who run independent movie theaters and how finances are rarely the prime motivations for doing so. These are family businesses, in many cases, and cornerstones of their communities. This could have been a typical business story; it's so much more impactful than that.

## **Arts & Entertainment Section**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Ally Rzesa (designer), the Boston Globe Arts staff

*Boston Globe, The*

Boston Globe Holiday Arts Guide

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Berkshire Landscapes, Nov. 30&Dec.1, 2024

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Culture Section

## **Arts & Entertainment Section**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Abraham Storer, John D'Addario, Susan Abbott

*Provincetown Independent*

Arts & Minds section June 26, 2025

**1st Place:** Elsie Lynn Parini  
*Addison County Independent*  
A+L section 103124

**2nd Place:** Joanne Briana-Gartner  
*Falmouth Enterprise, The*  
November 1, 2024 A&E Section

**3rd Place:** Dan Bolles  
*Seven Days*  
From Vermont to 'The Tonight Show,' Comedian Tina Friml Can't Lose

## **Multimedia**

### **Best Infographic on Website**

Combined

**1st Place:** Ryan Huddle, Diti Kohli, Matthew Nelson

*Boston Globe, The*

What do Mass. restaurant workers think of Question 5?

Great presentation and design. Making information available in small bites is the job of multi media formats and this is great.

**2nd Place:** Ryan Huddle, Dave Epstein

*Boston Globe, The*

See how much daylight Boston gains each day after the winter solstice

Visually appealing and engaging information about sunlight in Boston. Easy to digest and good-looking presentation.

**3rd Place:** Dave Eisenstadter

*MassLive*

Map shows biggest population losers and winners in Mass. from new census data

Clean, clear and simply designed, this map is effective and easy to interpret. Successful treatment.

## **Editorial**

### **Best Niche Publication**

Combined

**1st Place:** Gregory Popa

*Stowe Reporter*

Stowe Magazine summer edition

After seeing the Stowe Summer magazine last year, I had high expectations for this edition, and it did not disappoint. The magazine is filled with excellent content, including stories, photos, ads, and more. I appreciate the clean layout and the effective use of typography. Whoever is responsible for the ads definitely deserves a raise!

**2nd Place:** Amy Conway, Julie Hammill, Michelle Petricca

*The B*

Fall, Spring, Early Summer, High Summer

The Berkshire publications came in a close second. The combination of photography and catchy headlines draws you into the magazine, making it hard to put down. I loved the "Where to Eat Now" feature—it's a creative idea that really engages the reader. The page design is excellent: clean, clear, and crisp.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Nantucket Today*

Nantucket Today

Exceptional special section from top to bottom. The features are excellent, as well as the design. It's an outstanding product..

## **Multimedia**

### **Best Overall Website**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*Bangor Daily News*

Bangor Daily News

A highly usable and comprehensive news site with strong timeliness and content depth.

Navigation and section organization make it easy for audiences to find what they need, and the presentation strikes a good balance between news, features, and community resources.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

BerkshireEagle.com

A strong regional news site with comprehensive local coverage and relevant content for its audience. While the presentation and navigation can feel slightly less intuitive in parts, it provides significant value and maintains timeliness and depth.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*The Keene Sentinel*

The Keene Sentinel

A solid community news site that offers relevant local reporting and essential information.

Navigation and visual design are straightforward but less robust compared with other entries in this group, particularly in terms of breadth of coverage and feature variety.

## Best Overall Website

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com

A highly organized and visually engaging news website with depth of content and strong navigability. Frequent updates and a clear editorial structure make Boston.com a valuable destination with excellent audience usability.

**2nd Place:** staff

*MassLive*

MassLive Best Overall Website

A comprehensive news site with broad coverage and frequent updates. While advertising density occasionally competes with content, MassLive remains a strong, user-focused digital news destination.

**3rd Place:** Kellen Riell and staff

*New Bedford Light, The*

The New Bedford Light

A well-crafted site with strong community reporting and good visual presentation. While its coverage is narrower than larger statewide sites, it offers clear value and excellent usability for its audience.

## Best Overall Website

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Graham Smith

*Vineyard Gazette*

vineyardgazette.com

A highly polished and well-organized weekly news website with strong visual presentation and clear navigation. The site delivers timely reporting, effective use of photography, and a well-structured layout that provides significant value to its community.

**2nd Place:** Ben Harold, Teresa Parker, Chris Kelly

*Provincetown Independent*

The Provincetown Independent website

A clean, modern website with a strong editorial identity and effective use of visuals. The site serves its community well through clear organization, engaging presentation, and thoughtful storytelling, making it a strong and polished weekly news destination.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Overall Website

A comprehensive and frequently updated community news site that offers strong local value. While the design is more functional than polished, the breadth of content and reliability make it an effective weekly news destination.

### **Best Podcast**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

Spotlight: Snitch City

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

The Harvard Plan, Season 1

**3rd Place:** Jennifer Smith

*CommonWealth Beacon*

No man is an island: The collective climate challenge of coastal Massachusetts

### **Editorial**

#### **Best Solutions Journalism Project**

Combined

**1st Place:** Tréa Lavery

*MassLive*

MassLive's Housing Court Guide: What you need to know, getting started

Trea Lavery and MassLive provided an outstanding service to readers with their Housing Court Guide. The multi-part guide reveals the disparity in resources between most tenants and landlords when going to housing court. An excellent resource providing insight into the eviction process. The list of scenarios and outlined expectations of what to do in each situation is invaluable information for tenants.

#### **Best Website Home Page**

Combined Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*Bangor Daily News*

Bangor Daily News

The Bangor Daily News delivers a strong digital front page with clear headline hierarchy, effective use of images, and intuitive navigation that quickly communicates editorial priorities. Advertising and subscription prompts are well integrated without overwhelming the reader, resulting in a polished and highly usable homepage experience.

**2nd Place:** Bryan Parmelee, Don Eggert

*Seven Days*

Seven Days website

Seven Days offers a distinctive and engaging homepage that reflects its editorial voice and alternative-weekly roots, with strong headlines and clear visual identity. While content density can feel heavy at times, the site remains navigable and effective as a digital front page for readers seeking depth and personality.

**3rd Place:** Chip LeClerc, PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

PBN Homepage

Providence Business News presents a clean and professional homepage that clearly serves its niche audience with focused headlines and straightforward navigation. The visible homepage experience would benefit from stronger visual hierarchy and more prominent storytelling elements to better draw readers into top coverage.

## **Best Website Home Page**

Local Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Jason Graziadei, Dative

*Nantucket Current*

Nantucket Current - Best Website Home Page

Nantucket Current delivers a compelling digital front page with a clear headline hierarchy, intuitive navigation, and balanced presentation of recent stories. The site's layout and use of visuals make it both engaging and easy to use, effectively serving its audience with timely local news.

**2nd Place:** Kellen Riell and staff

*New Bedford Light, The*

The New Bedford Light

The New Bedford Light presents a robust and informative homepage with a steady stream of recent headlines and comprehensive section navigation. While somewhat text-dense, the site succeeds in delivering community-focused journalism with clear value and accessible structure.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Maine Morning Star*

Maine Morning Star

Maine Morning Star's homepage clearly communicates its editorial mission and offers timely headlines, but it feels more like a chronological feed than a curated digital front page. Strengthening headline prominence and visual hierarchy would enhance scannability and overall user engagement.

## Best Website Home Page

Regional Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Homepage

Boston.com offers a polished, visually engaging homepage that functions effectively as a digital front page, with clear headline hierarchy and strong supporting imagery that quickly communicates editorial priorities. Navigation is intuitive, calls to action are well placed, and advertising is integrated in a way that preserves a smooth, reader-friendly experience.

**2nd Place:** staff

*MassLive*

MassLive Best Website Home Page

MassLive presents a content-rich homepage that reflects the depth and urgency of statewide reporting, with generally strong headline writing and clear navigation. However, the density of content can make editorial priorities less immediately clear, and stronger visual hierarchy and curation would improve overall readability and impact.

**3rd Place:** Joseph Camardo, Conner Drigotas

*CT Inside Investigator*

Inside Investigator - nonprofit journalism to root out corruption

Inside Investigator's homepage clearly conveys its investigative mission through a clean, focused layout and substantive headlines that emphasize accountability journalism. While credible and purposeful, the homepage would benefit from stronger calls to action and more visual hierarchy to better engage readers at first glance.

## Business Page or Section

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Berkshire Business Journal: June 2025

**2nd Place:** Sam Lattof

*Banker & Tradesman*

Mass. Condo Market Shows Signs of Softening Amid 'Peak Uncertainty'

**3rd Place:** Tréa Lavery

*MassLive*

Women's soccer sees rapid growth as BOS Nation bets big on White Stadium

## Business/Economic Reporting

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Mackenzie Farkus

*Christian Science Monitor, The*

'Fresh brewed news': Community café offers locals a chance to sip with reporters

Well rounded and resourced reporting of a unique business model that directly connects the business to the community it serves in a very personal way.

**2nd Place:** Madison Schofield

*Greenfield Recorder, The*

App locates farm fresh eggs

Great work on finding a business story that is unique to the local community that also helps bridge the gap between community and business, showcasing the people aspect of business reporting.

**3rd Place:** Emilia Cardona

*Gardner News, The*

How Winchendon's new store, The Farm Stand, is bringing healthy food to a food desert

A wonderful story on a business that delves into to the business model and its connection to the local community.

## Business/Economic Reporting

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Theresa Sullivan Barger

*Day, The*

Raising source of protein is a boon to the health of Long Island Sound

Excellent reported business story that covers many aspects of the industry while telling readers something they likely didn't previously know about the intricacies of the market.

**2nd Place:** Diti Kohli, Scooty Nickerson

*Boston Globe, The*

Massachusetts cannabis testing is obscuring what's in your weed

Great reporting on a business that directly impacts the health of consumers.

**3rd Place:** Jonny Williams and Antonia Farzan

*Providence Journal*

Corporate marinas

Well detailed article that looks beyond the basic information and allows readers to better understand an industry that seeks to keep them in the dark.

## **Business/Economic Reporting**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Jennifer Smith

*CommonWealth Beacon*

The enigma of ‘Opportunity Zones’

Great detailed reporting on a program that directly impacts local communities and how a data deficit makes it unclear who is really benefitting from the program, businesses or communities.

**2nd Place:** Corey McDonald

*VTDigger.org*

Lawsuits accuse Vermont Construction Company of incomplete work, unjustified charges  
Amazing reporting on how an unregulated business area impacts everyday community members, and the real consequences of failure of government regulators to prevent future damage.

**3rd Place:** Will Katcher

*MassLive*

Massachusetts cannabis prices just keep falling. Is an end in sight?

Reporting well done. This piece does a wonderful job of discussing many angles of a business story and how it impacts businesses and the community alike.

## **Business/Economic Reporting**

Specialty

**1st Place:** Mary Serreze and Greg Ryan

*Boston Business Journal*

Hasbro HQ move

Congratulations on breaking this news. A big story for two states. The excellent use of FOI made this entry stand out in a field of strong competitors. The emails obtained via FOI gave readers a behind-the-scenes look at how a major corporation decides where to locate its HQ.

**2nd Place:** Renee Cordes

*Mainebiz*

Portland at a crossroads

Bravo on a thoroughly reported look at a troubled downtown. There were lots of voices and perspectives given to readers. Good work in doing a survey of the vacant storefronts.

**3rd Place:** Brooke Kushwaha

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

Last Call?

This story was deeply reported and well written. Congratulations on landing an interview with Carly Simon. This was a very enjoyable read and the photographs were terrific.

## Business/Economic Reporting

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Isabella Wellman-Webster and Zach Lanning

*Mount Desert Islander*

The Criterion Theatre goes dark

Isabella and Zach did a nice job of explaining the many factors that led to the theatre's closing. I was particularly impressed by their ability to get employees to talk critically about the board's actions. I also appreciated the historical context.

**2nd Place:** Liberty Darr & Briana Brady

*Shelburne News*

"Maple syrup makers deal with uncertainty"

This piece is well written and reported. Liberty and Briana did a nice job of explaining the many hurdles that producers of maple syrup face from tariffs to climate change.

**3rd Place:** Kaie Quigley

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

End of an era: Downyflake more than a breakfast joint

Bravo on a well reported and written piece. Kaie took the reader inside the restaurant and showed why it means so much to patrons. Starting with a longtime patron was smart.

## Business/Economic Reporting

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Courtney Lamdin

*Seven Days*

Years After Expansion, City Market Struggles to Make a Profit

This richly reported story includes important financial details but also provided readers with an understanding of what the coop means to the community. Thank you for including the voices of shoppers. The sidebar was interesting and well written.

**2nd Place:** Aaron Calvin

*News & Citizen*

"Cambridge farmer expands into Granite State meat processing"

This two-story package demonstrates that readers respond to well-reported and well-told stories. The March piece brought home the impact of cuts to federal agriculture programs and readers responded by offering support to the affected farmers. Bravo!

**3rd Place:** Jack Styler

*Provincetown Independent*

Reviewers Suspect Fraud in Nursing Home Filings

This story brought to light aspects of a nursing home's ownership and operation that many readers probably didn't know about. Good work in finding outside voices to comment on the critiques of the two experts.

## Climate Change or Weather Reporting

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Sophia Keshmiri

*The Keene Sentinel*

Tanglewood storm recovery

A compelling portrait of a family trying to put the pieces back together after losing their home to a bad storm. The articles highlighted how the most vulnerable can easily fall through the cracks when it comes to accessing disaster assistance, and also how invaluable community support is. By closely following one family over a year, the author brought the readers along on the long recovery journey, which is often absent from news stories. Details like the son's new pet guinea pig, Miss Peanut Butter, really popped.

**1st Place:** JohnCarl McGrady

*Nantucket Current*

Nantucket Current

The breadth of this ambitious series is laudable, from the heavy toll that global overheating is taking on vital local biodiversity, to the inevitable infighting over saving prized, vanishing shorelines, to potential fixes. While aspects of the second installment could have been synthesized (quotes are best used sparingly), the writer captured both the nuances and the enormity of the challenges facing this coastal community, as well as the political fallout of prioritizing ecological resilience over moneyed property rights.

**2nd Place:** Lori Valigra

*Bangor Daily News*

Conditions are perfect in the Maine woods for moose-killing ticks

A solid piece of explanatory journalism that immediately draws readers into the horrors of tick infestations, and what it means for the moose population as well as the economy. The piece makes clear the links between a warming climate and the explosion of ticks, and the heartbreaking toll it takes, especially on moose calves. Importantly, a potential solution, ie thinning trees, was included.

## Climate Change or Weather Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Kevin McCallum

*Seven Days*

Vermonters Want Buyouts for Their Flooded Homes. Some Towns Are Saying No.

A skillful portrait of the human and emotional tolls of climate change in a frontline community where leaders have to make painful decisions with limited resources. The author put faces on the disproportionate impacts of flooding, and uses telling details to relay the gut punch of not only losing a cherished home, but also not getting federal help to walk away. Details like the porch propped up by a carjack and the dog falling through a hole really popped.

**2nd Place:** William von Herff, Provincetown students

*Provincetown Independent*

Scientists Say 'Cold Pulse' Is Linked to Surge in Dolphin Strandings

A thorough and engaging piece of explanatory reporting about how rapidly warming ocean waters wreak havoc on marine life, and likely drove a record number of dolphins out of the sea. Tips on dealing with a stranded dolphin was a public service, the illustration by sixth graders was delightful, and the kicker quote highlighted how heartbreaking climate change can be.

**3rd Place:** Ethan Genter

*Vineyard Gazette*

Stonewall Beach Homeowners Look to Navigate Erosion's Effects

A gracefully written story with a visceral lede that immediately tells the reader what's at stake for the owner of a home on the verge of toppling into the sea. The author elegantly summarized a drawn out decisionmaking process and the frictions between innovation and bureaucracy, in a community facing down a rapidly eroding coastline.

## **Combatting Misinformation and Restoring Trust**

Combined

**1st Place:** Paula Routly

*Seven Days*

From the Publisher

**2nd Place:** Emma Davis

*Maine Morning Star*

Bellows says unsubstantiated noncitizen voting claims 'lay groundwork to challenge results'

**2nd Place:** Heather Morrison

*MassLive*

This Mass. DA has faced a real serial killer. He's not concerned about recent rumors

**3rd Place:** Trevor Meek

*Ipswich Local News*

Police chief debunks internet rumors

## **Commentary**

Combined

**1st Place:** Heidi Gomez

*Harvard Press, The*

Dissed-abled: Wheelchair users need equality of access and opportunity

Terrific commentary from a wheelchair-bound resident of Harvard who lays out in detail the barriers that keep disabled townspeople who just want what the able-bodied have: access to nature trails and the ability to safely go for a walk A real public service!

**2nd Place:** John L. Micek

*MassLive*

Rümeysa Öztürk chose grace over bitterness. What we can learn | John L. Micek

Excellent and moving commentary that gives the reader a different view of our immigration system from a forgiving woman who was wrongfully detained,

**3rd Place:** Calli Remillard

*Mashpee Enterprise, The*

Indigenous History Is Far From "Fiction"

Wonderful editorial denouncing an attempt, in Texas, to re-classify as fiction a factual book on the Wampanoag Tribe's role in the first Thanksgiving. A spirited and well-written editorial.

### **Community/Audience Involvement**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Community Section

**2nd Place:** Staff

*MassLive*

MassLive leaders series

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Brackets

### **Community/Audience Involvement**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Nathan Miller

*Lakeville Journal, The*

HVRHS Student Journalism Program

**2nd Place:** Tom Morgan et al.

*Addison County Independent*

Community Involvement Freedom+Unity

**3rd Place:** Amy Conway, Julie Hammill, Michelle Petricca

*The B*

The B's List: Next Gen

## Photography

### Contemporary Issues Photo

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Mark Jarret Chavous

*Enterprise, The (Brockton)*

Homeless people in Brockton react to mayor's veto of anti-camping law

**2nd Place:** Allan Jung

*Telegram & Gazette*

Turtle Rescue

**3rd Place:** Linda Coan O'Kresik

*Bangor Daily News*

Tent City Closing Day

### Contemporary Issues Photo

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Glenn Russell

*VTDigger.org*

No Kings Rally: Mohsen Mahdawi Speaks to Thousands in Burlington

**2nd Place:** Sebastian Restrepo

*MassLive*

'More presence on the street': How Hampden County is addressing homelessness

**2nd Place:** Will Katcher

*MassLive*

Counting Boston's homeless: Volunteers blanket city to help those sleeping in cold

**3rd Place:** Sebastian Restrepo

*MassLive*

This \$150 device turns pistols into machine guns. Here's why Mass. should worry

### Contemporary Issues Photo

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** James Buck

*Seven Days*

Exposed

**2nd Place:** Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

*Seven Days*

Buyout Blues

**3rd Place:** Gary Higgins  
*Boston Business Journal*  
Woman hangs Juneteenth banner

**3rd Place:** Ray Ewing  
*Vineyard Gazette*  
Revolution Wind seen from Aquinnah

## **Editorial**

### **Crime and Courts Reporting**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Brad Petrishen  
*Telegram & Gazette*  
Locke trial for Bermudez family murder  
Good, clear writing. Takes you inside the courtroom. A tale of American justice.

**2nd Place:** Dan Haar  
*Hearst Connecticut Media*  
Haar Schechter arrests  
Rich, detailed, dogged reporting exposing educators' stonewalling about an abusive teacher.

**3rd Place:** Abigail Ham  
*The Keene Sentinel*  
Justina Steffy series  
Careful, studied coverage of the murder of a woman.

### **Crime and Courts Reporting**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Angela Carella  
*Connecticut Examiner, The*  
Prostitution, Trafficking Ring Operated Across From Stamford Police Headquarters  
Shocking tale, well sourced reporting. Excellent storytelling.

**2nd Place:** Janine L. Weisman  
*Rhode Island Current*  
A wrongful arrest lawsuit ends with a settlement. Now man accused in cold case is starting over.  
What a tale. Clear, concise reporting.

**3rd Place:** Abby Patkin  
*Boston.com*  
Jury selection for Karen Read's retrial began Tuesday. It could take a while.  
Good explainer on how the system works.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*MassLive*

Karen Read trial coverage  
Bringing a court room alive.

**Crime and Courts Reporting**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Rachel Hellman

*Seven Days*

Videos Show a Former Grand Isle Corporal's Quick Temper

Kudos to Rachel Hellman for crafting this well-written, engaging investigative piece. Great work getting the police bodycam footage and getting an expert to review it and weigh in with their opinion.

**2nd Place:** Dean Geddes

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Cisco homeowner accused of trespassing, cutting neighbor's trees

Dean Geddes did a wonderful job of telling this story about a Nantucket homeowner who allegedly cut down his neighbor's trees to enhance the ocean view from his house... and the lawsuit that inevitably followed. This island story quickly became national news.

**2nd Place:** John Flowers

*Addison County Independent*

Prosecutor draws scrutiny 2025

You can tell John Flowers put a lot of work into this story, which pulls back the curtain and shows readers a side of the criminal justice system they may not be familiar with.

**3rd Place:** Kris Olson

*Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*

Man granted new trial awaits justice as DA challenges murder conviction reversal

Kris Olson did a great job covering this important case and really captured the scene outside of the courthouse.

**3rd Place:** Andy Kirkaldy

*Addison County Independent*

Police replace stolen vets flag

Andy Kirkaldy took what could have been a brief news item and turned it into a very moving and thoughtful feature story. Well done.

## Critics Award

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Gregory Stroud

*Connecticut Examiner, The*

The Restaurant You Want to Open in Your Town

Sharp and lively criticism with language as tasty as great cuisine.

**2nd Place:** Brent Hallenbeck

*Burlington Free Press*

Waning Windows: Vibrant music festival Waking Windows strikes its final note in Winooski

Moving encomium to the last days of the Waking Windows music festival.

**3rd Place:** Victoria Wasylak

*Boston Globe, The*

Phones weren't welcome at this TD Garden concert, and the show was a surprising success

Vivid account of the glories of a concert where electronic devices were banned.

## Critics Award

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Alice Dodge

*Seven Days*

Protest, History and Democracy Reverberate at the Current Gallery in Stowe

Sharp-eyed review of "It often rhymes," a bold show of politically charged works at the Current Center for Contemporary Art in Stowe, Vermont.

**2nd Place:** Joe Beuerlein

*Provincetown Independent*

Beyond That Red Barn, Sacro Bosco Revisited

Creative essay casts unexpected light on the relationship between Old World horticultural masterpieces and mini-gold courses.

**3rd Place:** Margot Harrison

*Seven Days*

Book Review: 'The Afterlife Project,' Tim Weed

Incisive critique of The Afterlife Project, a novel of socially engaged "climate fiction" by Tim Weed.

## Editorial Cartoon

Combined

**1st Place:** Tim Newcomb

*Seven Days*

Environmental Pulverization Agency

A sock-in-the-eye cartoon, entertaining but blunt. It makes its point quite effectively.

**2nd Place:** Traci Harmon-Hay

*Provincetown Independent*

Watercolor: See Not, Hear Not, Speak Not

Naughty but nice commentary on mild weather in the winter. The composition and color are winners.

**3rd Place:** Tim Newcomb

*Seven Days*

Cutting Free School Meals

Humorous but effective swipes at local and national politicians' proposal to curtail school meals.

## **Editorial Writing**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

The Globe's endorsement package: Preserving an important newspaper tradition

Outstanding endorsement writing, clearly showing the differences of each candidate on each important issue.

**2nd Place:** Lauren McCauley

*Maine Morning Star*

editorials

Vivid writing, showing the reader the way in supporting the governor over the president.

**3rd Place:** Larry Parnass

*The Republican*

In DWI case, sheriff not just any defendant

A classy public denunciation. Understated but powerful.

## **Editorial Writing**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Joshua Balling

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Oh, Deer; Muzzled; Enough is Enough

These are strong editorials reflecting opinion and offering direction on issues important to the local community.

**2nd Place:** Angelo Lynn

*Addison County Independent*

editorials for Addison Independent

The editorials are well-researched, which provides understanding for the reader and support for the newspaper's positions.

**3rd Place:** Cyndi Wood

*Ellsworth American, The*

Ellsworth American Opinion

These are well-written editorials with a dash of opinion.

### **Editorial/Commentary Page**

Combined

**1st Place:** Jeff Potter, editor

*Commons, The*

Voices section

A truly superb editorial section, with big-picture viewpoints on the Trump administration actions and their impact on the government, and local viewpoints which focus on municipal problems and their impact on citizens. The writing was excellent, and layout inviting, a one-two combination that much larger publications would envy. Congratulations!

**2nd Place:** Dave Coffey

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Editorial page, May 3/4, 2025

A solid editorial page with a nice mix of viewpoints and a well-written editorial.

### **Education Reporting**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Jesse Collings

*Telegram & Gazette*

Special Ed program closing down

**2nd Place:** Madison Schofield

*Greenfield Recorder, The*

Schools drafting AI policies

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

A year of turmoil at Harvard

### **Education Reporting**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Emilia Otte

*Connecticut Examiner, The*

Four-part series on the dearth of services for disabled young adults in CT.

A thorough analysis of an important topic. I especially appreciated all the character building and anecdotes.

**2nd Place:** Kristian Moravec

*Maine Monitor, The*

Maine towns grapple with school district reorganization

A thorough analysis. Great graphics. And good anecdotes and quotes.

**3rd Place:** Eesha Pendharkar

*Maine Morning Star*

Restrained & Secluded

Good series of stories that include solutions, evaluations of law, personal stories, and data elements.

### **Education Reporting**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Alison Novak

*Seven Days*

A Public Education

**2nd Place:** Alison Novak

*Seven Days*

To Address a Teacher Shortage, North Country Union High School Looked to the Philippines

**3rd Place:** Louisa Hufstader

*Vineyard Gazette*

High School Program Empowers Teens to Take a Stand

### **Energy News and Reporting**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Jim Kinney, Greta Jochem

*The Republican*

Energy solution or ecological hazard?

**2nd Place:** Theresa Sullivan Barger

*Day, The*

From trash to ash: Following household garbage's journey

**2nd Place:** Jane Kaufman

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Leveling up the lines

**3rd Place:** Alison Cross

*Day, The*

Please read sidebar on the jump page. It provide more context to the main story.

## Energy News and Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Anastasia E. Lennon

*New Bedford Light, The*

Tracking Vineyard Wind

**2nd Place:** Kristian Moravec

*Maine Monitor, The*

Can Maine's heat pump and workforce development boom last?

**2nd Place:** Mary Serreze

*Providence Business First*

Offshore wind farm coverage

**3rd Place:** AnnMarie Hilton

*Maine Morning Star*

How will natural gas factor in to Maine's cleaner energy future?

## Energy News and Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Britt Bowker

*Bluedot Living MV*

Electrifying the Island

**2nd Place:** Hayley Duffy

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

A journey to see the spin

**3rd Place:** Kevin McCallum

*Seven Days*

An Error Cost Burlington Electric \$1 Million

## Multimedia

### Entertainment or Feature Video

Combined

**1st Place:** Eleonora Bianchi

*New Bedford Light, The*

Reliving the Bianco raid of 2007

**2nd Place:** Taylor Sanzo, Sebastian Restrepo

*MassLive*

What does it take to be a scare actor at Six Flags New England's Fright Fest?

**3rd Place:** Eva Sollberger

*Seven Days*

A Home and Garden Tour of Fern Crete's Burlington Oasis

## **Editorial**

### **Environmental Reporting**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Theresa Sullivan Barger

*Day, The*

From trash to ash: Following household garbage's journey

Well written and well researched. Excellent photography adds context to the story. Kudos to the author for her reporting in the "Imminent Horizons" series.

**1st Place:** Theresa Sullivan Barger

*Day, The*

Raising source of protein is a boon to the health of Long Island Sound

A tie with Theresa's "Trash to Ash" article. A nice series that showcases the authors attention to detail, research, and photography choices.

**2nd Place:** Aaron Simon Gross

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Recovery takes flight

Aaron did a nice job researching the material and reporting it. The photography was excellent and the print layout was very informative and thoughtful.

**3rd Place:** Emilee Klein

*Daily Hampshire Gazette*

Soaked from below

Nice reporting on a somewhat obscure subject. Good research using local resources and excellent storytelling.

### **Environmental Reporting**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Hadley Barndollar

*MassLive*

Raw sewage in Alewife Brook: The unfinished chapter of Boston Harbor cleanup

The problem of Combined Sewer Overflow is well-trod ground, but this piece reminds readers that for the neighborhoods where the problem remains, life can get disgusting and unhealthy real fast. The clean writing in this article shows why this problem matters and the reporter avoids getting bogged down in the extensive history of CSO and Boston Harbor. They give us enough context to understand the situation and they know when to stop. The piece ends on an appropriate note of uncertainty over the delivery of a solution.

**2nd Place:** Marc E. Fitch

*CT Inside Investigator*

Passing the Buck: The path to clean drinking water can be long and expensive

This piece does a good job of describing a disjointed bureaucratic response to a family's well founded worries about tainted drinking water. The enterprise effort shows in the deep research and the full roster of interviews. At points, the piece goes into more detail and explores angles that are somewhat duplicative, but in the end, it paints a clear picture of where this problem exists and gives residents and policy makers key places for improvement.

**3rd Place:** Austyn Gaffney

*VTDigger.org*

Vermont is violating the federal Clean Water Act. Will new regulations for farm runoff help?

This article successfully tackles the unsexy issue of the allocation of power across state agencies. The piece uses simple clear sentences and a logical flow to show why the control of agricultural runoff matters and where regulation breaks down. It uses tight quotes to good effect.

**3rd Place:** Jan Ellen Spiegel

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

CT farmers face federal funding uncertainty just in time for spring start-up

This article puts readers in touch with small farmers and their struggles with the uncertainty of federal programs upended by the Trump administration. It shows good writing and, while it would benefit with tightening, it makes real the connection between federal policy and the ability of farmers to succeed.

## **Environmental Reporting**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Jonathan Mingle

*Seven Days*

Vermont's Loggers and Sawmills Are Disappearing — and That's Bad News for Forests

This article is a good example of the two boxes a lede should tick: It flows naturally and unforced from the action of the story and it foreshadows what the piece will deliver. The sawmill operator's hunt for a chair to sit on feels authentic and captures the broader search for how to fill the gap left by a disappearing class of sawmills.

Good structure helps bring the reader through a complex story. Deep research supports the text. The article would have been stronger if it were shorter, but overall, this is the sort of work that provides good public value.

**2nd Place:** Ethan Genter

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

An Island Epidemic

This is a clearly written description of a rapidly expanding threat to health. The topic is pressing, the research complete and the writing shows good judgment in what to say and what to leave out. The map graphic is a strong addition, and the structure allows the reader to follow along as we

learn about the biology and medical sides of alpha-gal. Simple declarative sentences and brief focused quotes keep us on track.

**3rd Place:** Jewel Farrin Olivia Cafarelli Manzi Lara Salahi

*Manchester Cricket, The*

Reditching The Great Marsh

A nicely crafted piece that deftly blends naturalist details about a small bird and the technical nuances of restoring a marsh to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels. Notably, the article includes a nod to those who see the marsh restoration as intrusive. It's important to include the lack of agreement around such efforts. import

### **Event Special Section**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Seven Days*

The Seven Days Guide to South End Art Hop 2024

### **Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** GSNC and Partner Outlets

*Granite State News Collaborative*

Know Your Vote: Youth Voter Guide

**1st Place:** Dan Splaine, Nashua Ink Link, GSNC

*Granite State News Collaborative*

Immigrants Among Us

**2nd Place:** Will Katcher, Rosanna Marinelli

*MassLive*

Sanctuary or not, immigrant fears transcend borders in Chelsea, Revere

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Maine Monitor, The*

How Maine counties are spending ARPA funds

### **Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Derek Brouwer / Liam Elder-Connors

*Seven Days*

Vermont Doesn't Track Homeless Deaths. So We Did.

**2nd Place:** Sarah Shaw Dawson and Eve Zuckoff

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

Opening up uncertainty

## Photography

### Feature Photo

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Sarah Gordon

*Day, The*

Painting supervisor

The way the subject's body language mirrors the statue is amusing, and it's even more fun that the statue appears to be painting as well. This photo genuinely made me smile.

**2nd Place:** Allan Jung

*Telegram & Gazette*

Bald eagle

The expression of the bald eagle makes this image more engaging than a traditional nature photograph. Capturing the wings at their full span adds to the sense of drama and delight. A wider aperture to further soften the background could have elevated this image even more for me.

**3rd Place:** Steve Heaslip

*Cape Cod Times*

Flying Nun

This is a sweet childhood school moment. The young girl maintains her composure as Mother Nature adjusts her headpiece. You might consider cropping slightly from the top to reduce the distraction of the boy behind her and keep the focus on the main subject.

### Feature Photo

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Steve James

*Addison County Independent*

Drone kids

I appreciate that the photographer waited for the moment when the drones moved in close to the subjects. The intensity of concentration and focus on their faces is compelling and really draws the viewer into the scene.

**2nd Place:** Gene M. Marchand

*Sandwich Enterprise, The*

Grass Replanting

The quality of light, strong leading lines, and pops of color throughout the people and environment make this image engaging and provide a clear sense of place.

**3rd Place:** Tim Johnson

*Vineyard Gazette*

Brock Callen shares his board with his son kite surfing on Sengie

The tight grip, paired with the expression of delight on the son's face, makes this image a joy to look at. The drips of water enhance the sense of action and movement. I do wish there were a bit

more context below the subjects to show the water, but the dark background works well compositionally and helps the subjects stand out.

## **Editorial**

### **Food Page or Section**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Alexa Gagosz

*Boston Globe, The*

Food and Dining in R.I.

Gagosz clearly has the local know-how and sources to produce buzzy, light reads that no doubt keep her audience feeling informed.

**2nd Place:** Katelyn Umholtz

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Food Section

Nice local spin on a national trend.

**3rd Place:** Stephanie Hanes, Riley Robinson

*Christian Science Monitor, The*

Local, organic, and bipartisan: How Vermont is challenging Big Food

The amount of work that went into this reporting is impressive. I wish this story had more explicitly confronted the political tensions playing out in Vermont's food spaces.

### **Food Page or Section**

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Annabelle Brothers, Sheny Leon

*Bluedot Living MV*

Lessons in Foraging

Crisp, clear writing that anticipates and addresses readers' concerns, and leaves them with a thoughtful takeaway, even if they never venture into the woods.

**2nd Place:** Amy Conway, Julie Hammill, Abigail Fenton

*The B*

Raising the Bar

Gorgeous images of drinks that neither insult the reader's intelligence, nor pose a daunting challenge to their bartending skills. By the same token, candor in the intro regarding the featured bartender's struggles with sobriety and profit motive set the blurb apart from zillions of other columns on the topic.

**3rd Place:** Abigail Fenton, Julie Hammill, Ann Volkwein

*The B*

Welcome to Hilltown

It's terrific when words and pictures line up so closely: The subject of this profile looks and sounds like the same guy--and both the text and images make readers want to try his pies.

## Food Page or Section

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Bridget Higdon

*Saint Albans Messenger*

Field to Fork

This entry is head and shoulders above every other submission in this group: While everyone long ago tired of reading "Where does your food come from?" stories, asking "Where does our food go?" makes this ambitious reporting fresh, timely, and highly relevant to readers. Good work.

**2nd Place:** Melissa Pasanen, Jordan Barry

*Seven Days*

October 16, 2024 food section

With the caveat that this publication got knocked down a few points for retreading the overtold story of pawpaw obscurity, the mix of lively storytelling and handsome imagery is strong here. The coverage feels connected to its community and its interests.

**3rd Place:** Rosalie Harrington

*Manchester Cricket, The*

Food with Rosalie

Nostalgia is usually a recipe column killer, but Harrington has a selective eye for detail in both her personal writing and her dishes. Her storytelling is notably compelling.

## Front Page

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Evan Berkowitz

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Berkshire Eagle, Nov. 20, 2024

This front page is visually compelling. The combination of the strong photograph and headline draw readers in.

**2nd Place:** John Ruddy

*Day, The*

A good front page is almost endangered these days

**3rd Place:** John Ruddy

*Day, The*

This front page isn't trash

## Front Page

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Anne Ewing

*Providence Business News*

Equity Check

**2nd Place:** Matt Selva

*Mainebiz*

Portland at a crossroads

## Front Page

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

MV Times front page

This is a modern front page with professional design. The layout is modular, with a restrained typographic approach that is consistent throughout the page. The use of color is also measured. This is a well-executed page and holds up well not just within the region of this competition but against publications of similar size and resourcing throughout the country.

**2nd Place:** Lise Barnett

*Valley Breeze*

Aug. 22, 2024

One of the toughest roles a designer has to play in a newsroom is editing — specifically removing all unnecessary elements, particularly on canvases that are by definition a mix like the front page. This page tackles this well, displaying its stories with restraint, with measured typographic hierarchy and a distribution of visuals to prevent monotony from the "gray." The page doesn't feel cluttered and offers a more measured and inviting reading experience.

## Photography

### General News Photo

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** David Sokol

*Gloucester Daily Times*

'Tears of love' at final farewell for Rockport Fire captain

The expression of the woman receiving the flag, combined with the supportive hands on her arms, conveys deep emotion and made me feel strongly for everyone involved in this difficult moment. A slightly tighter crop focused on the emotion at the center of the frame could make the image even more powerful, as the church name pulls my eye away from the heart of the photograph.

**2nd Place:** Shahrzad Rasekh

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

Immigrants in the workforce

I really appreciate that the photographer took the time to learn Alexandra's story. Knowing that she is an immigrant cleaning up after a Trump rally adds important context and gives the photograph much greater depth.

**3rd Place:** Merrily Cassidy

*Cape Cod Times*

Field of Honor

There have been many strong photographs made at Field of Honor ceremonies, but what sets this one apart is the genuine sense of excitement and exploration the children appear to be experiencing. I also appreciate the way the subjects are framed by the flagpoles, which adds structure and depth to the image.

### **General News Photo**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Ken McGagh

*Concord Bridge, The*

Fire!

The variety of expressions, combined with the explosive moment of the musket fire, makes this an all-around fun and engaging image. The exposure is well handled, allowing all of those elements to come through clearly.

**2nd Place:** Steve James

*Addison County Independent*

Zoomer at college graduation

This is a well-composed, engaging photo with strong visual elements. Leigha's expression, paired with the clearly visible graduation year on the tassel, and the shallow depth of field that isolates these details, all work together effectively.

**3rd Place:** Gene M. Marchand

*Falmouth Enterprise, The*

Gilbert Ice Bucket Challenge

It's been a while since I've seen an image like this, so it was nice to revisit the phenomenon nearly 10 years after the initial craze swept the country. The family's love and commitment to supporting Art is clearly evident. I do wish the seated woman had a bit more splash on her, but her expression is wonderful and adds warmth to the moment.

## Editorial

### General News Story

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Steven Porter

*Boston Globe, The*

Long-buried claim of rapist priest tests N.H.'s statute of limitations

The Boston Globe's New Hampshire bureau deepened the paper's coverage of priest sex abuse by exposing the complications posed by state statutes. Steven Porter brings much-needed sunlight to the issue.

**2nd Place:** Greta Jochem

*The Republican*

Flipped out

Masslive's flagship paper in Springfield investigates a disabled veteran's claims against a Holyoke city councilor, and the stakes couldn't be higher: his home. Well-written, backed up by astute digging.

**3rd Place:** Elizabeth Walztoni

*Bangor Daily News*

Suicide barriers

Gripping storytelling that exposes a bureaucratic nightmare.

### General News Story

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Luis Fieldman, Jeaneth Santana

*MassLive*

Family of Trooper Enrique Delgado-García still looking for answers nearly a year after his death  
A stellar piece of reporting weaving together the news element of the death of a state police recruit with a very personal look at his life before the tragic accident. Since the interview with the mother and other family members was conducted in Spanish it gave them the comfort to open up to the reporters and provide meaningful details about Mr. Delgado-Garcia's life.

**2nd Place:** Peter D'Auria, Alan Keays and Habib Sabet

*VTDigger.org*

Before the shooting of a border patrol officer, visitors took an interest in a remote property  
A great job of back-tracking and connecting the dots on the story behind the shooting death of a border patrol agent. Through interviews, court records and good old gum-shoe reporting the writers were able to piece together how this tragic tale unfolded.

**3rd Place:** Abby Patkin

*Boston.com*

The swingers club next door

You had me at "naked karaoke!" This is a real twist on the typical NIMBY story and presented an interesting tale emblematic of so many sagas in small towns. The story is very well balanced with both sides being fairly represented leaving the reader to decide for themselves.

## General News Story

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Paula Moura

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

From inside detention facility, Vineyard Brazilian immigrant shares story of his arrest

**2nd Place:** Dean Geddes; Kaie Quigley

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Vineyard Wind Blade Failure

## General News Story

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Derek Brouwer

*Seven Days*

Bilked and Bereft

This news feature, while expansive, is the ultimate cautionary tale detailing virtually every aspect of the insidious fraud being perpetrated on some of the most fragile and undeserving victims. The reporter dually and meticulously lays out the 'true crime' story alongside a much deeper dive into how cybercrime seeps into and ruins nearly every aspect of victims' lives. Brouwer deserves high marks for - after all they went through - earning the trust of the subjects, who provided so many potent and deeply personal details. Along with the engaging infographic, this report is an important public and reader service that will hopefully help other vulnerable individuals avoid similar tragedies.

**2nd Place:** Colin Flanders

*Seven Days*

A Surgeon Sues His Employer, UVM Medical Center, Over Son's Death

Everything about this reporting is near perfect. From the compelling lede that immediately hooks one in, to the verdict teaser that keeps them reading to the very end of this uniquely related piece of storytelling. At the same time, Flanders relates very compelling information anyone can benefit from if they know or fear a loved one is grappling with addiction.

**3rd Place:** Eric Casey

*Worcester Business Journal*

Trump Administration seeking to close two Central Mass. Job Corps centers

In this well-written piece on the closure of two Job Corps centers, Eric Casey shows how national policy affects the local community.

**3rd Place:** Aden Choate

*Provincetown Independent*

Grief Redoubled by a Death Certificate Delayed

When anyone questions the need for - or the relevance of local journalism - a copy of this news story should be handed to them. While Benson's engaging and sensitive reporting is hyper-focused on one person's challenge and ultimate resolution in the face of death, it also evidences how a local newspaper should - and in this case did - serve to reveal shortcomings in government systems and agencies that arguably impact citizens during the worst time of their lives.

### Good News Award

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Heather McCarron

*Cape Cod Times*

One poem, one old desk unites families across U.S. and Canada border

I defy anyone to read this heartwarming story and not tear up. Lovely.

**2nd Place:** Sophia Keshmiri

*The Keene Sentinel*

10-year-old making Alstead ice rink a reality

What this 10-year-old kid has accomplished truly lifts the spirit and warms the heart.

**3rd Place:** Rachael Devaney

*Cape Cod Times*

Wampanoag cousins meet on genealogy website, team up to gain state tribal recognition

A remarkable tale of two people using their powers for good.

### Good News Award

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Roberta Baker

*New Hampshire Union Leader*

Operation Delta Dog - 2 stories

It's impossible to read these stories and not mist up.

**2nd Place:** Matt Martinez

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Celebrating her mastery in mobility

This is an inspiring account of a remarkable young woman and all she's overcome.

**3rd Place:** Jack Perry

*Providence Journal*

A Santa for all

The writer really captures these Santas' selflessness in beautiful prose.

## Good News Award

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Chris Mason

*MassLive*

From war-torn Liberia to Patriots rookie camp: The amazing journey of D3 star Hector Johnson  
What an inspiring story! This tale is tonic to the soul.

**2nd Place:** Irene Rotondo

*MassLive*

Small town, big winners: Inside the Mass. store with multiple \$1M lottery wins  
This story is just the ticket! Great story idea, beautifully executed.

**3rd Place:** Sarah Glazer, Sam Moore

*BlueDot Kitchen New England*

In Maine, There Are Lots of Fish in These Schools

In our inexplicably migrant-hostile moment, it's heartwarming to read about a community that has risen to the challenge.

## Good News Award

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Kaie Quigley

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Nantucket Animal Rescue taking off but still seeking support

A heartwarming account, beautifully told, of what ordinary folks can accomplish.

**2nd Place:** Chuck Wisner

*Manchester Cricket, The*

When Reason Prevails

It's indeed good news when a community keeps civil discourse alive. This was a welcome read in our current moment.

**3rd Place:** Liberty Darr

*Shelburne News*

"Shelburne's long lovers celebrate 75 years"

Everyone loves a love story, and this one is first-rate.

## Good News Award

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Evan Walsh

*Community Advocate*

With lemonade stand, autistic Marlborough child makes an impact

This touching story of how this boy has overcome against all odds truly warms the heart.

**2nd Place:** Gwyn Skiles

*Vineyard Gazette*

A Lost Ring Leads to a Memorable Connection

A stirring -- and startling -- account of coincidence and revelation.

**3rd Place:** Margaret Carroll-Bergman

*Concord Bridge, The*

'He's experienced our lives with us': neighbors celebrate retiring letter carrier

The warmth of this community and its appreciation really come through. ... A delightful read.

## Government Reporting

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Jane Kaufman

*The Berkshire Eagle*

"Too much, too fast"

The Berkshire Eagle used one community's volunteer fire department to show how new OSHA response standards are likely to decimate hundreds of volunteer fire departments, which would have a huge impact on their communities.

**2nd Place:** Alison Cross

*Day, The*

BOTTLES, CANS, DEPOSITS and FRAUD

Cross-border recycling hijinks are basically stealing redemption money for bottles and cans, by crossing state borders to take advantage of their varying rules for redemptions. It's a lot of money.

**3rd Place:** Brad Petrishen

*Telegram & Gazette*

Justice department findings on Worcester police department

In a series of stories, the Worcester Telegram delved into a critical report on the city police department, strong criticisms of the report from police and their supporters, and the next steps the city will need to take to sort things out.

## Government Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Jason Graziadei

*Nantucket Current*

Nantucket Current - Government Reporting

The Nantucket Current, and Jason Graziadei in particular, focus exclusively on the most important issues on the island, so it is not surprising to see this exceptional reporting on the short-term rental debate. This thorough look at the drastic drop in revenue and how it is shaping opinions on proposed new regulations is a textbook example of government reporting that matters.

**2nd Place:** Andrew Brown and Dave Altimari

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

Emails link Deidre Gifford to scandal

The Mirror's reporting is a great example of "show, don't tell," laying out the details of Commissioner Gifford's relationship and likely influence in a Medicaid fraud case, clearly placing each detail in front of us in a well-researched investigation.

**3rd Place:** Grace Ferguson

*New Bedford Light, The*

City Council accidentally eliminates single family zoning

The New Bedford Light nails it with this whoopsie story of the unintended consequences of a city zoning change, showing us how it happened and what it means.

**3rd Place:** Paula Tracy

*InDepthNH.org*

NH Budget Squeaks Though

There's no doubt that InDepthNH's Paula Tracy knows a thing or two about government in the Granite State. Her blow-by-blow reporting of New Hampshire's closely watched budget debate is infused with a depth that can only come from experience.

## **Government Reporting**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Alison Novak

*Seven Days*

Company Founder Helping Design Detention Center Runs Other Programs Facing Legal Claims  
Seven Days performed an extraordinary public service by investigating the company hired to run Vermont's troubled juvenile lockup solution, and found a history of problems and legal claims. State officials either ignored or were unaware of these problems.

**2nd Place:** Liberty Darr

*Shelburne News*

Cemetery commissioner accosts grieving family

The Shelburne News documents troubling behavior by the town cemetery chief, interrupting a burial to harangue a family about a fee that had already been paid to the town. Then, reporter Liberty Darr stuck with the story, tracking how town officials dealt with the problem, and ultimately ducked responsibility. Good job.

**3rd Place:** Eric Casey

*Worcester Business Journal*

Trump cancels leases for 37% of Central Mass. federal commercial space

Tie for third place: How the Trump administration had canceled leases for 37 federal offices in central Massachusetts, which will have a huge impact on services to the public.

**3rd Place:** Paul Benson

*Provincetown Independent*

Local Housing, Health, Science Rely on Washington

Tie for third place: How cuts by the Trump administration will have major impacts on local housing, health and science issues, and how that will hurt Massachusetts.

### **Headline Writing**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Tom Tripicco

*The Berkshire Eagle*

"Teaching for the skies"

Clever headline

**2nd Place:** Peter Donohue

*Providence Journal*

Brushes with a ghost

**3rd Place:** Peter Donohue

*Providence Journal*

Faith in an old building

### **Headline Writing**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Janine L. Weisman

*Rhode Island Current*

Vote first, ask questions later: Senate panel quickly advances reworked assault weapons ban

**2nd Place:** Jason Graziadei

*Nantucket Current*

Nantucket Current - Headline Writing

**3rd Place:** AnnMarie Hilton

*Maine Morning Star*

How Rep. Pingree hopes to fight climate change one darned pair of jeans at a time

### **Headline Writing**

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Joshua Balling

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Raise a pint

**2nd Place:** Faith DeAmbrose

*Mount Desert Islander*

Therapy dog has ruff life

**3rd Place:** Joshua Balling

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Bumps and Humps: Traffic trouble on Gold Star Drive

## Headline Writing

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Rob Reinalda

*Concord Bridge, The*

A patriot's day

**2nd Place:** Rob Reinalda

*Concord Bridge, The*

One if by lamb, two if by seafood: Abundant food options for the 250th

**3rd Place:** Lucia Maffei

*Boston Business Journal*

'Young, single, dateless, hopeless:' Akamai CTO talks early days, AI, cloud future

## Health Reporting

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Kay Lazar

*Boston Globe, The*

Experimental cancer treatment at Harvard

This story stands out as exemplary health reporting for its powerful blend of science, humanity and relevance to current events. By weaving a deeply reported narrative with clear, accessible explanations of complex biomedical science and timely context about threats to research funding, the piece illuminates both the promise of modern cancer treatment and the stakes for patients when research funding is threatened. The reporting not only deepens public understanding of an important health issue, but also underscores why sustaining investment in research matters to real lives.

**2nd Place:** Jonny Williams

*Providence Journal*

Big Beautiful Bill effects

By connecting the dots between federal policy changes that include deep cuts to Medicaid and related programs and their tangible effects on coverage and the state's health system, the story gives Rhode Islanders clarity on how the Big Beautiful Bill will affect the cost and access to care. The coverage excels at balancing policy nuance with human impact, highlighting how shifts in federal funding and requirements could alter the health insurance landscape, strain providers, and become a central issue in state political discourse, helping the public grasp both the health and civic implications of the bill's provisions.

**3rd Place:** Jessica Bartlett

*Boston Globe, The*

As a health reporter, I thought I could navigate the system. I was wrong.

This gripping narrative combines personal experience with broader health system analysis to illuminate the cost, accessibility and human toll of emergency care when it becomes the only viable option for patients locked out of timely outpatient treatment. Through a vivid first-person account of a medical crisis, and insight into why primary care shortages and long waits push patients into expensive emergency departments, the story puts a human face on how systemic gaps translate into financial strain, long waits and unnecessary suffering.

## Health Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** CT Mirror Staff

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

A Buried Threat

Impressive shoe-leather and data reporting provides a clear picture of an under-investigated public health problem. A particular emphasis on how lead service lines and plumbing impact Connecticut's most vulnerable residents, backed by strong sourcing and data visualizations, pull the reader through the complexities of issue. A remarkable team effort.

**2nd Place:** Katy Golvala

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

People call GLP-1s life-changing. CT says it can't afford them.

The strong sourcing from impacted patients is the highlight of this timely story. These personal narratives put the legislative and financial challenges into context for the reader.

**3rd Place:** Eesha Pendharkar

*Maine Morning Star*

Needle exchanges face municipal pushback despite state, public health backing

A well-sourced and researched story that highlights the tension between cities, who face competing public health and citizen concerns, and advocates working toward harm reduction.

This story provides all sides without judgment.

## Health Reporting

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Katie Castellani' PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

Primary Duties

A strong solutions story that thoroughly weighs if nurse practitioners can and should help fill crucial gaps in primary care. Robust reporting supports how NPs are helping and acknowledges the limitations of this solution, providing a comprehensive overview of the issue. The strong sourcing stands out in this story, which is told from the perspective of NPs and doctors on the front lines of this crisis.

**2nd Place:** Ryan Doherty, PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

A cure for the ills?

A complex issue tackled completely with supporting data and stakeholder perspectives. Just as the issue of keeping more primary care physicians in Rhode Island has “no silver bullet,” the story grapples with the complexities of health care education and the problems that even this “solution” may not solve.

**3rd Place:** Mica Kanner-Mascolo

*Worcester Business Journal*

A \$250M gap in the safety net

A well-researched story about finances that clearly explains the impact to all patients.

## Health Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Colin Flanders

*Seven Days*

Vermont Has a Drinking Problem. It's Time to Talk About it.

This investigation delivers exceptional health reporting by confronting an often-overlooked public-health crisis with rigor and context. Through a compelling blend of individual narrative and data-driven reporting, the story reveals that Vermont not only exceeds national norms in overall alcohol consumption and rates of heavy drinking, but also that alcohol-use disorders affects many residents and contribute to hundreds of premature deaths annually. Beyond describing the scope of the problem, the piece succeeds in illuminating the health impacts of excessive alcohol use, and highlighting local solutions to address the problem.

**2nd Place:** John Osborn, Joan Eliyesil, and Marty Green

*Harvard Press, The*

The Closing of Nashoba Valley Medical Center: A sampling of Harvard Press coverage.

This powerful local series captures the death of a community hospital and the cascading health consequences that followed. Through sustained reporting on Nashoba Valley Medical Center — from early warnings of financial distress and public hearings, to protests, and finally the hospital’s last day — the coverage documents not just an institutional closure but the unraveling of a regional health-care safety net. By centering the voices of nurses, physicians, emergency responders, seniors and town officials, the series makes clear that the hospital’s disappearance is not a moment but a process and offers a deeply local account of what it means when a community loses its hospital.

**3rd Place:** Colin Flanders

*Seven Days*

Health Care Costs in Vermont Continue to Soar

This in-depth story offers vital, local health reporting on a pressing and widespread problem: the relentless escalation of health care costs in Vermont and its ripple effects across the state’s communities, employers and care systems. In plain language, the story turns complex issues into

a clear narrative with real human and economic stakes familiar to Vermonters. It helps readers grasp not only how high prices are affecting access and affordability, but why the trend persists and what it could mean for the future of health care in their state.

## History Reporting

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Malcolm Gay

*Boston Globe, The*

A museum steward found clues about her Chippewa family in Harvard's possession. Amazing details, great storytelling and a very compelling personal story all rolled into an excellent look at history buried in Harvard's Peabody Museum Collection. A must-read story.

**2nd Place:** Wheeler Cowperthwaite

*Providence Journal*

Shakespeare's Head Building

An interesting piece on RI history that focuses on a historic building to unveil the story about enslaved people whose history was linked to that building. Good research, use of quotes and overall detail.

**3rd Place:** Kay Lazar

*Boston Globe, The*

The history of the measles vaccine

Solid reporting that fills in many historical details and ties the history of the measles vaccine to the current controversy and spread of the disease. Well done and interesting!

## History Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Colin Hogan

*New Bedford Light, The*

"What's the oldest tree in New Bedford?"

Not a typical history piece but definitely interesting. The writer takes you into the woods and weaves in New Bedford history and storytelling through the knowledge of these folks searching for the oldest tree in the city. Well done!

**2nd Place:** Emma Davis

*Maine Morning Star*

Maine LGBTQ+ leaders reflect on legacy of progress, lessons to guide fight ahead

Lots of good interviews and research pull together the history of LGBTQ activism and rights in the state of Maine. Interesting history that is under the radar for most people. Good writing, good use of quotes and weaving the narrative.

**3rd Place:** Kevin G. Andrade and Crystal Yormick

*New Bedford Light, The*

50 years later: Cabo Verdeans bask in hard-won independence

It's great that some older southeastern Mass. residents were interviewed for their recollections about the coming of Cabo Verdeans. The writer did a good job reaching way back in history to the whaling era to lay the foundation for this migration into New Bedford and surrounding communities.

**3rd Place:** Kristi Palma

*Boston.com*

'It's the only one of its kind in the world': The story behind a 153-foot historic tower in Scituate  
A short piece that focuses on what is surely a little-known story behind a very prominent Scituate landmark. A good read!

## History Reporting

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Dan Jackson

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

The Deaf Enclave Heard Around the World

Although the Vineyard has long been known to have had a high incidence of deaf residence, this piece shines a fascinating light on studies through the years and the difference conclusions they reached involving the deaf community. Very interesting and well written.

**2nd Place:** Craig Semon

*Worcester Magazine*

You get what you need

Good job capturing so many voices in this piece about the Stones' early show at the Aud. Great to have so many first-person insights and recollections both of seeing the show and scoring tickets back in the day.

**3rd Place:** Kris Olson

*Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*

50 years ago: Attorney reflects on suicide that changed courthouse security

A fascinating story about a shocking courtroom incident that immediately forced a change to courthouse security. Lots of detail, both from the interviews and news stories and documents from that time 50 years ago.

**3rd Place:** Mary Bergman

*Nantucket Today*

Swimming Pools on an Island?

Well-written history piece that tells a lot about the quirky relationship between Nantucket residents and visitors to the saltwater all around them -- and where swimming pools have fit into that picture. Nicely done!

## History Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Laurie O'Neill

*Concord Bridge, The*

'Minute Man' marks 150th birthday where 'embattled farmers stood'

The lead made me want to keep reading, and the rest of the story did not disappoint.

**2nd Place:** Sofia Barr

*Valley Breeze*

Ann & Hope was the site of fatal sleigh ride of 1893

Suspense, tragedy, and a horrible disruption to the community.

**3rd Place:** Michael Harrison, Sarah Roberts

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

International Women's Day

Interesting, well researched story. Enjoyable read.

## Home & Garden Writing

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Clellie Lynch

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Snowy morning brings a show of woodpeckers battling for suet

**2nd Place:** Peter Chianca

*Boston.com*

Do you really have to rake your leaves? Like, really?

**3rd Place:** Roberta Baker

*New Hampshire Union Leader*

Pocket gardens

## Home & Garden Writing

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Jen Coles

*Manchester Cricket, The*

At Home Now

**2nd Place:** Hafsa Lewis

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

The Power of Flowers

**3rd Place:** Staff

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Nantucket Beach House

## Home & Garden Writing

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Stephen Orr

*Provincetown Independent*

A Cottage Garden in the Dunes

**2nd Place:** Stephen Orr

*Provincetown Independent*

Upstairs, Downstairs

**3rd Place:** Ken Picard

*Seven Days*

Life Stories: Remembering World-Renowned Warren Architect Dave Sellers

## Housing News

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Sawyer Loftus

*Bangor Daily News*

Rural Maine foreclosures

Outstanding investigative reporting by the Bangor Daily News and ProPublica. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided low-cost mortgages years ago so that poor people would have a chance at home ownership. Now, 56 of them — 55 in Maine — are being foreclosed on years after the properties were abandoned. The article tells the story of one woman who tried to turn in her keys in 2012 only to be ignored, and is now being harassed by the USDA. Borrowers in Maine owe an average of \$110,000 more than they would have if the USDA had taken possession of the properties when they first defaulted, as the law requires the agency to do. In addition, the properties have deteriorated, greatly lowering their value. The story also raises the possibility of retribution in Maine, noting that the state has been singled out for foreclosures in the midst of a battle between President Trump and Gov. Janet Mills over transgender athletes in school sports.

**2nd Place:** Troy Aidan Sambajon

*Christian Science Monitor, The*

‘Yes in God’s backyard’? More Boston churches turn into affordable housing.

This is a well-written feature story about churches that are being converted into affordable housing, especially for seniors, which enables them to stay in their own neighborhoods rather than having to move to senior housing some distance away. The article focuses on Hill Memorial Baptist Church in the Allston-Brighton neighborhood of Boston. In some parts of the country, affordable housing is being built on church land while the church continues to operate — as in California, where a "Yes in God's Backyard" movement led to legislation that streamlines permitting and overrides zoning restrictions. A really nice roundup of stories from around the country, written with The Christian Science Monitor's patented solutions-journalism orientation.

**3rd Place:** Sam Ferland

*Daily Hampshire Gazette*

'Can't pay, won't pay'

The Daily Hampshire Gazette submitted three different stories. I've combined them into one entry to recognize the paper's ongoing commitment to coverage of housing issues. The first story, "Housing advocates, tenants decry rent hikes in Easthampton," concerns a rally by tenants demanding that members of the city council take their side in opposing rent increases imposed by out-of-state property owners. The second, "Tenants take rent fight to Beacon Hill," reports on about 50 residents from Western Massachusetts who traveled to the Statehouse in order to protest and testify in favor of rent-control legislation. The third, "Northampton Housing Authority boss placed on leave," is about a confidential report that the Gazette obtained accusing the executive director of the local housing authority "of numerous legal and ethical violations that include providing housing to close friends and family members." Sometimes depth and context are present in one story; sometimes they emerge through multiple stories on the same topic. This is a fine example of the latter.

## **Housing News**

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Eric Russell, John Terhune and Dylan Tusinski

*Portland Press Herald*

In Saco, the anatomy of a housing proposal toppled by residents

The Portland Press Herald published a three-part series on the housing crisis in Maine called "Locked Out." For some reason, the paper submitted parts one and three as separate entries and did not submit part two. I've combined all three into one entry. Taken as a whole, the Press Herald does an outstanding job of examining different aspects of the housing crisis. Part one is a deeply reported story on how a NIMBY uprising killed a much-needed 288-unit condo development in Saco, echoing similar anti-development campaigns in other communities. Part two takes a look at the counterintuitive idea that building luxury housing can ease the shortage of housing for low- and moderate-income residents by freeing up lower-cost units. Part three examines the shrinking availability of lower-cost starter homes, explained in part because it's no longer economically feasible for developers to build small homes on small lots. Overall, the series is a significant contribution for anyone who wants to understand why Maine is beset with a housing shortage and what political and cultural obstacles stand in the way of solutions. These problems are not unique to Maine, and so the Press Herald's reporting would be well worth studying by news organizations in other states.

**2nd Place:** Roberta Baker

*New Hampshire Union Leader*

Tiny Homes

The best kind of reporting tells you something you didn't know. Thus the New Hampshire Union Leader has provided a real service for readers in taking a three-part look at so-called tiny homes, very small single-family houses that provide a low-cost alternative to typical single-family homes, which are increasingly out of reach for many home buyers. The three parts of this series examine tiny homes as accessory dwelling units, allowing for a smaller home adjacent or attached

to a large home (and not especially popular with state residents, according to polling that the Union Leader cites); a development in Dover comprising 44 tiny homes with less than 400 square feet of floor space; and tiny homes on wheels, an idea that significantly lowers the cost. (My first thought was, well, don't we already have trailers? The accompanying photo makes it clear that these are larger and more attractive.) The Union Leader's journalism shows that there are innovative ideas that could help ease the state's burgeoning housing shortage — but warns that a lack of support from elected officials and local residents could prevent these ideas from catching on.

**3rd Place:** Antonia Noori Farzan and Wheeler Cowperthwaite

*Providence Journal*

Housing series

The Providence Journal has produced a data-heavy series on the rising number of out-of-state home buyers who are moving to Rhode Island to take advantage of lower housing costs. A significant proportion of these buyers are from Greater Boston. Because of work-at-home trends that begin during the COVID pandemic, they are able to continue their jobs with Massachusetts employers while taking the commuter rail to Boston on days when they are required to be in the office. As the stories note, there is a significant difference between middle-income people moving to less expensive parts of Rhode Island and upper-income folks buying expensive homes in vacation areas and living in them part-time; the first is arguably a positive development for Rhode Island whereas the second is harmful. Regardless, the phenomenon has made it more difficult for people who already live in Rhode Island to buy a home or to upgrade to a larger house.

## **Housing News**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Grace Ferguson

*New Bedford Light, The*

Housing in Distress series

Grace Ferguson's series on housing is built around a startling statistic: According to the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth, New Bedford has the largest gap in Eastern Massachusetts between development costs and rent. She writes: "Developers can expect to lose about \$286,000 for every rental unit they build in the city without subsidies, according to the report." Her housing stories delve into various aspects of the housing crisis in New Bedford — what neighboring suburbs are (and aren't) doing, a deep statistical analysis on the extent of the housing crisis, a video explainer by Ferguson, the voices of residents who are being squeezed, and a public forum, moderated by Ferguson, that was carried on YouTube. An especially compelling part of Ferguson's housing coverage is a story on how New Bedford is trying to revive vacant properties. That story was submitted as a separate entry, but I'm including it here. Overall, the Light's package combines public service reporting on the causes of New Bedford's housing crisis, how people are being affected, possible solutions, and an opportunity for the community to speak and be heard. A triumph both for the Light and for Grace Ferguson.

**2nd Place:** Josh Keefe

*Maine Monitor, The*

How seven wealthy summer residents halted workforce housing

This is an extraordinarily well-done story by Josh Keefe, told with great depth and with an enormous amount of reporting, about a lawsuit brought by seven wealthy residents who are trying to stop six affordable single-family homes from being built in Northeast Harbor. The homes are intended for people who work on Mount Desert Island and who can't afford to live there, meaning they constantly have to drive on and off the island. The wealthy residents talk about traffic and the hazards that will be posed to their bike-riding kids, and always stress that they "support workforce housing," but not this, of course. The reporter goes to great lengths to try to interview everyone, including the plaintiffs. This took a tremendous amount of reporting, and it's well-told and understandable. There's also an angle involving Leonard Leo of Federalist Society infamy — he's involved in another affordable housing group that restricts its efforts to parts of the island that are unlikely to run into opposition.

**3rd Place:** Jennifer Smith

*CommonWealth Beacon*

Vacation home trends add to Massachusetts housing crunch

This story tells us something we don't know: changes in the rental market in vacation communities on Cape Cod and the Islands have had a devastating effect on the availability of apartments. Those changes are the result of short-term rentals enabled by the rise of Airbnb and the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. As a result, Jennifer Smith reports, only a fraction of vacant apartments are available for rent at any given time, while the communities themselves are becoming depopulated during the offseason. And the Berkshires could be next. Now advocates are pushing for regulatory and property-tax changes that would allow their communities to take action.

## **Housing News**

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Katie Castellani, PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

Tapping the private sector

Providence Business News does an interesting thing here. They answer the question posed to readers, which is whether the private sector can provide more help with affordable housing. We hear from nonprofits, for-profits, charitable organizations, academicians, government officials and others for a full picture of the issue and a good thrashing of possible solutions. Very thorough and well told. The editorial punctuating the reporting is nicely done. Did anyone point to your work as being at least partly responsible for passage of the \$120 million housing bond?

**2nd Place:** Katie Castellani, PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

Missing the Mark

Compellingly readable analysis of a problem that frustrates many communities, with valuable comparison between affordable housing in Little Compton against so much more available in Central Falls. Graphic is well done and it was nice to finish on a hopeful note. Editorial is a solid hammer.

**3rd Place:** Eric Casey

*Worcester Business Journal*

Weathering the perfect storm

This solid analysis is well complemented by the lists of stalled/canceled projects and others that are on track, demonstrating in easy list form there have been more failures than successes. Lots of voices in a tight piece that said what it had to say and got out. Nice.

## **Housing News**

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Justin Lavelly

*North Star Monthly*

The Rise of Remote Work in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom

Really interesting trend piece and kudos to you for getting people to talk to you about their choices to work remotely. As you reported, not everyone is happy this trend came home. Good perspective on necessity for broadband access, impact on housing and the great peace that comes from rural living in our fast-paced world. Nicely done.

**2nd Place:** Sarah Shaw Dawson

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

A housing crisis on Martha's Vineyard

Great niche topic to explore, and one that appears to be a splendid option for many communities, not just island communities. This could have been a dry report about the new law and how people are managing the logistics of ADUs, but you brought real people's experiences and perspectives to life to make this housing option make sense. And fun!

**3rd Place:** Aaron Calvin & Patrick Bilow

*Stowe Reporter*

"In Stowe, short-term rentals are owned from afar"

Tremendous effort to push out data on the short-term rental registry a month after it was created. That's fast work well done. This rental trend has created some nasty controversy in some towns, which you touched on, but you did it without making anyone look like an ogre. The visualization of the mailing addresses for Stowe's short-term rental owners was a great add.

## Housing News

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Derek Brouwer / Liam Elder-Connors

*Seven Days*

Vermont Doesn't Track Homeless Deaths. So We Did.

This is such a starkly disheartening and discomfoting read it was hard to push on. Good on you for making it that difficult. The fact that Vermont doesn't track homeless deaths and people like Todd Gorton die alone and in pain is incomprehensible and anyone reading this should be stunned. Superb narrative covering a topic highlighting the horrific circumstances of being homeless and the good people who reach out to help. I hope everyone who was sitting in a warm home with a full belly reading your story on a dark February night gave solemn pause, and then offered help.

**2nd Place:** Kevin McCallum

*Seven Days*

This Lot Was Slated for Housing — Until a Neighbor Stepped In

What a wild tale. Money. Politics. Property dispute. Neighborhood tension. Words like 'asinine' and 'pissed.' Doesn't get much better than this. I have to agree with Yves Bradley. It's a wonder anything gets built in Vermont. And thank you for writing a NIMBY piece without using the acronym ....

**3rd Place:** Ethan Genter

*Vineyard Gazette*

Housing Crisis Hits Middle Income Earners

Solid report focusing on needed affordable housing for people who help make our communities hum. This middle-income earner squeeze is becoming all too common in wealthy communities and learning that police may have to sleep in bunkrooms just to afford to stay on-Island should make people uncomfortable. The Walking Man Close project sounds like part of the solution, which was a nice add to the piece. Some of the reader comments weren't terribly sympathetic to the missing middle's plight, though, which speaks volumes. Stay on this. It's important.

## Human Interest Feature Story

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Desiree Nikfardjam

*Cape Cod Times*

One slip of the foot. Dawn Capra lost part of her right leg at the transfer station.

A true and uplifting human interest piece. Woman who lost her leg after being hit in a freak car accident shows courage and perseverance in her recovery.

Narrative fits the woman's attitude and spirit, eliciting respect and admiration rather than pity.

**2nd Place:** Elizabeth Walztoni

*Bangor Daily News*

A vanishing way of life

Well-written and organized story about a sole survivor in a faded industry -- cattle auctions.

Summary about the lessening of the beef and cattle business in Maine enhances the topic.

Sharp focus on perhaps the last in a family line of auctioneers. His quotes propel the narrative and put a personal touch on this somber tale.

Apt photos add to this piece's appeal.

**3rd Place:** Frank Mulligan

*Standard-Times, The*

New Bedford artist's playful painting of Belichick and Jordon Hudson catches their eye

Well-written piece exploring notice brought on local artist by his whimsical take in a painting based on a photo of Belichick balancing his girlfriend on his legs at a beach.

Good mix of a straightforward mini-profile of the artist and the humorous side of how this painting came to be received.

## **Human Interest Feature Story**

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Christopher Gavin

*Boston Globe, The*

Doug Lane on his family's life a month after a plane crash killed his wife and son

Touching story that touches all the bases -- sad tragedy and its effects on a family recounted well in quotes and photos.

**2nd Place:** Beth Teitell

*Boston Globe, The*

Watertown's legendary plumber

Amusing and entertaining profile of "the guy" -- that invaluable fix-it figure in seemingly every trade who knows where every widget is buried and who is a hero to colleagues and customers alike for encyclopedic expertise.

Author strikes just the right tone in describing the subject and his special skills and why he's so admired and even legendary.

Apt and innovative photos too.

**3rd Place:** Matt Martinez

*The Berkshire Eagle*

A chance encounter at the Red Lion Inn turned an 11-year-old pianist into a play's composer

Inspiring story about a young pianist who serendipitously is recruited to compose music for a local play.

Interviews with the play's creative director and the boy's parents forge a well-written and well-organized narrative about how the prodigy-like boy succeeds in composing music used in the play. Heartwarming tale, well-told.

**3rd Place:** Gillian Graham

*Portland Press Herald*

They're the last cobblers left in Maine — and they're busier than ever

Endearing glimpse into the past from the present. Feature brings to light a dying yet busy -- and proud -- profession.

Apt and interesting photos.

Videos adds value -- and an extra human touch -- to this piece.

### **Human Interest Feature Story**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Lisa Hagen

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

With federal funding in flux, a CT farmer went back to Washington

In Hagen's detailed story, we find Connecticut farmer Willie Dellacamera might not be the best-dressed guy to visit Capitol Hill to plead his case for federal aid to owners of small farms, but he just might be the most persistent.

**2nd Place:** Ross Cristantiello

*Boston.com*

'The Mighty Quinn' battled brain cancer twice. Now it's his father's turn.

Cristantiello's story follows the Waters family of Weymouth who have endured young Quinn's two battles with brain cancer, only to see Quinn's father's face the same life-threatening illness.

**3rd Place:** Heather Morrison

*MassLive*

Mass. Savers employee fired for rescuing trashed statue — now it's in a museum

Morrison writes about a Savers employee fired for rescuing a statue depicting slavery from the trash that's now in a museum. Did the worker's efforts to organize a union have anything to do with his termination?

### **Human Interest Feature Story**

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Caroline Sorbom, Sam Moore

*Boston Bluedot*

The Charles: I Went to Fish

Caroline Sorbom's fish story begins simply: She wants to catch a fish in the Charles River and fry it for dinner. But she hooks the reader with a well-researched story of the multimillennial history of the Charles, including its "dirty water" past and its much cleaner future.

**2nd Place:** Steve Sheppard

*Nantucket Today*

Origins of The Chicken Box

Steve Sheppard profiles The Chicken Box, sort of the "Cheers" of Nantucket — only with honey-fried chicken that keeps people coming back for more.

**3rd Place:** Alex Regen

*The B*

Passing Through

Some of the best journalism covers places mostly unknown. Alex Regen brings us to Goose Pond Cabin, a welcome stop in Lee, Massachusetts, for hikers on the 2,200 Appalachian Trail. Regen also profiles several people who explain why they make the challenging trek.

### Human Interest Feature Story

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Dean Geddes

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

From mighty elm a table resonating with history is born

Best memory preserved - a felled tree from the town's center becomes is shaped into a precious table.

**2nd Place:** Kris McGinn

*Manchester Cricket, The*

Heart and Soul of Main Street Antiques

Interesting profile of an experienced antiques dealer in a town which has perhaps the greatest antiques business in the state. But while profile is good, the overall decline in antiques business locally and region-wide is left unexplored.

**3rd Place:** Patrick Bilow

*Stowe Reporter*

"Graduates explore the world during gap years"

Great idea for a story as it both informs and delights, and for both parents and kids. Think this is what a purposeful feature for the hyper-local media looks like.

### Human Interest Feature Story

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Natalia Zukerman

*Lakeville Journal, The*

Honoring the Past: Bearing Witness at Auschwitz

Powerful account of a visit to Auschwitz concentration camp by a local resident whose kin died there.

**2nd Place:** Fran Lynggaard Hansen

*Commons, The*

'They were tough times, but we made the best of it'

Terrific look back on the struggles on the community's rural life during the Depression by a local 90-year older.

**3rd Place:** Evan Walsh

*Community Advocate*

'We're in this moment together': In honor of Francis P. O'Connor, Shrewsbury gathers for Turkey Trot

Some of the 10 children of SJC Justice O'Connor find reason to be thankful for on Thanksgiving, being together and celebrating his town significance.

## **Humor Columnist**

Combined

**1st Place:** Doug Brendel

*Ipswich Local News*

Doug Brendel a.k.a. The Outsidah

Doug Brendel's sharp, irreverent humor skewers local absurdities —shark bans, bake-sale bans — with a playful voice that keeps readers grinning. He turns everyday gripes into rollicking tall tales.

**2nd Place:** Donald Morrison

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Humor Columnist: Don Morrison

Don Morrison's humor columns are wry, with self-deprecating charm that weaves personal mishaps, both real and imagined — like dumpster-diving for Christmas trees or spotting Elon Musk in the back seat — into delightfully twisted tales of everyday absurdity.

## **Illustration/Infographics**

Combined

**1st Place:** Kellen Riell

*New Bedford Light, The*

Years after Michael Bianco raid, New Bedford immigrants still have to hide  
Stylish 'graphic novel' illustration approach to this timely story. Very effective work to accompany the editorial content.

**2nd Place:** Kellen Riell

*New Bedford Light, The*

Illustration series: Why did Vineyard Wind's turbine fail?

Clear, precise infographics demonstrate a fascinating piece about wind turbine. Visually digestible and graphically interesting treatment!

**3rd Place:** Evan Berkowitz, Claire O'Callahan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Which way will political winds blow?

Perfectly complementing the political editorial content, these infographic timelines are very well done and effective.

## Immigration Coverage

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

Immigrants and immigration in New England

This ambitious, thorough and well-written, series explores and explains the effect of immigration on schools, housing, services and attitudes (through a poll) in Mass. Some aspects were surprising, such as why many Haitian migrants come to the commonwealth via Chile.

**2nd Place:** Caroline Enos

*Salem News, The*

Trump's immigration orders ignite fear in Salem

This is a well-sourced and reported explainer of the actions and reactions to immigration enforcement in the early months of the Trump administration.

**3rd Place:** Callie Ferguson

*Bangor Daily News*

Arrested in Maine

Strong reporting.

**3rd Place:** Larry Parnass

*The Republican*

The boy and the crucifix

A fascinating, well-told story.

## Immigration Coverage

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Kevin G. Andrade

*New Bedford Light, The*

After the ICE arrests, what happens to the families?

A thoroughly reported look at what happens to families after the main breadwinner is detained by ICE and an analysis of arrests that shows a pattern of men being primarily targeted and possible explanations of why. Solid reporting that goes beyond the headlines.

**2nd Place:** Irene Rotondo

*MassLive*

Inside a Boston immigration courtroom: Lawyers say fear is quickly spreading

The reporter takes readers inside an immigration courtroom to show, in exquisite detail, what happens and how it affects people.

**2nd Place:** Laura Tillman

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

A family of Afghan refugees arrived in CT. Here's what happened.

this is a compelling story about one Afghan family that shows the challenges of refugees trying to settle in this country while the Trump administration has cut funding for critical support groups.

The reporter took time with the family to detail the pursuit of housing, medical care, education for the children and employment, among everyday necessities and provide understanding for the reader.

**3rd Place:** Kevin G. Andrade and Eleonora Bianchi

*New Bedford Light, The*

Guatemalan immigrant in U.S. for 30 years arrested by federal agents

A terrific lede - possibly the best among all the entries! This story is old with sensitivity and insight.

**3rd Place:** Will Katcher, Rosanna Marinelli

*MassLive*

Sanctuary or not, immigrant fears transcend borders in Chelsea, Revere

This story took the different angle of showing financial consequences of communities defying ICE while including the views of residents, such as politicians and shopkeepers.

## **Immigration Coverage**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Paula Moura

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

A Wave of Immigration

An enterprising story that traces the first immigrant from Brazil to work on Martha's Vineyard.

Today Brazilians are about one-fifth of the island populations.

**2nd Place:** Colin Flanders, Alison Novak, Ken Picard

*Seven Days*

A World Away

Compelling story telling.

**3rd Place:** Lucy Tompkins

*Seven Days*

Vermont Immigrants Are Now Reluctant to Cross the Border

An interesting angle.

**3rd Place:** Courtney Lamdin

*Seven Days*

South Sudanese Vermonters Pay Price of Trump Visa Ban

Well written.

## **Innovator Award**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Kevin Slane, Kelly Chan, Zipporah Osei

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Boston Movie Bracket

**2nd Place:** Sean McAdam

*MassLive*

Fenway Insider with Sean McAdam

**2nd Place:** Colin Booth, Angelique Inchierca

*Granite Post*

Granite Gaming

**3rd Place:** Heather Morrison

*MassLive*

MassLive Parole Board hearing coverage

## **Investigative / Enterprise Reporting**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Hadley Barndollar

*MassLive*

Pill presses in Massachusetts

These reports have it all, most importantly impact and action after publication. Also: humanity with real people, substantial depth of reporting, and obvious support from masslive for time and resources invested, a factor that should not be ignored in today's challenged industry. Excellent reporters require institutional support. Nice work.

**2nd Place:** Greta Jochem

*The Republican*

Shady as hell

Potential for impact here -- registrar plans to push for change -- and reveals danger to any property owner. Broad public interest, as many people own property. That the perpetrator was in prison added a layer of reporting challenges.

**3rd Place:** Mandy McLaren

*Boston Globe, The*

Investigating Special Education in Massachusetts

School districts are notorious for steadfast commitment to secrecy. This series of reports, with depth of detail and compelling narrative, exposes them at their worst in this particular area of education. That it had impact -- outside forces looking into the issue and changing rules -- defines the need for investigative reporting.

## Investigative / Enterprise Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Alison Novak

*Seven Days*

Parents Fear Fraud After Colchester Childcare Center Closes Suddenly

Kudos on revealing the truth and a story that had impact, forced change. Detailed reporting, real people. This wasn't just one bad guy, it is one flawed system that a bad guy took advantage of.

**2nd Place:** Joe Sexton

*Seven Days*

One Man's Buying Spree Exposes the Drugs-for-Guns Trade in Vermont

This clearly required voluminous work wading through reports and documents to get to an important issue. Investigative includes shining light on issues and actions people may not otherwise know about.

**3rd Place:** Dakota Antelman

*Concord Bridge, The*

Emergency Shelter Conditions

Persistent news reporting here, nice job and we need more of that. Also forced change -- points for that. Stories that prompt action define the best of investigative, so for that, recognition.

## Living Page or Section

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Berkshire Landscapes, Feb. 15&16, 2025

The Berkshire Landscapes is a stunning section that any reader will enjoy.

## Living Page or Section

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Amy Conway, Julie Hammill, Michelle Petricca

*The B*

Celebrate with Style

## Living Page or Section

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Teresa Parker, Susan Abbott

*Provincetown Independent*

Inside/Out Section, Provincetown Independent, July 17, 2025

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Living and Arts

**3rd Place:** Elsie Lynn Parini

*Addison County Independent*

Four Friends find Art Together

**Local Election Coverage**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Staff

*Maine Monitor, The*

Nov. 2024 election coverage by The Maine Monitor

The staff of the Maine Monitor's coverage of the 2024 election is a model of journalism at its best. The coverage leading up to the election and on Election Day was superbly well thought out, thorough with easy-to-read stories and excellent graphics. The residents of Maine had bundles of useful information to help them learn about the candidates and issues of importance on the local and national levels. Congratulations to the staff for an excellent job!

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

The Boston Globe's 2024 election maps and coverage

The Boston Globe clearly knows how to write and package election coverage. They continue to set the standards of giving readers what they need to know with plenty of compelling stories and easy-to-understand graphics. The writing is first-rate and the coverage is wonderfully comprehensive.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*New Bedford Light, The*

Election 2024: There's a lot at stake on the South Coast

The staff of the New Bedford Light did an excellent job localizing national issues leading up to and through the presidential election. The package of localized stories was fascinating, focusing issues such as immigration, fishing, climate change, housing, the economy and reproductive rights – all from the point of view of people living in the area.

## Local Election Coverage

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

2025 Annual Town Election

The Inquirer and Mirror's very comprehensive coverage of Nantucket's 2025 local election was very impressive. Not only did the staff do an excellent job reporting on the issues and candidates in all the local races, but the candidates themselves were invited to make their case to the voters in their own words. The writing by the Inquirer and Mirror's staff was top-notch, giving residents all they needed to know before voting.

**2nd Place:** Dakota Antelman

*Concord Bridge, The*

Concord Election 2025

Concord residents are fortunate to have a quality reporter such as Dakota Antelman covering their town. He did a superb job handling an extraordinarily contentious local election where even the Concord Bridge itself was dragged in by a candidate as an issue. Antelman brought clarity to all the issues that voters needed to consider before casting ballots. Also adding to the coverage was the excellent Election Day photography of Ken McGagh.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Addison County Independent*

Local elections Town Meeting Day preview and coverage 2025

Very nice job by the Addison County Independent providing coverage of annual town meetings in 23 Vermont communities. Residents had access to a mountain of useful information that was easy to read and very comprehensive. Excellent work!

## Local Personality Profile

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** A.Z. Madonna

*Boston Globe, The*

Born without a right hand, he plays the violin with a unique sound

An inspiring story about an individual whose immense talent was unlocked for the world by a mindset of accessibility that he now helps unlock for others.

**2nd Place:** Mark Shanahan

*Boston Globe, The*

Dedham woman helps an abandoned 19th-century Jewish mural find a new home

**3rd Place:** Tréa Lavery

*MassLive*

Mass. typewriter shop sees boom during pandemic but will close after 50 years

## Local Personality Profile

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Beth Kanell

*North Star Monthly*

The Evolution of Larry Golden: Basketball Star to Artist

The personality, talent and gumption of a remarkable community member come through in the writing of "The Evolution of Larry Golden."

**2nd Place:** Joe Keenan

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

The Arrowhead Odyssey

**3rd Place:** Kris Olson

*Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*

After 46 years, defense legend says he's not going anywhere — for now

## Local Personality Profile

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Melissa Pasanen

*Seven Days*

A Baker's 100

"A Baker's 100" does a masterful job capturing the personality and values of a remarkable individual.

**2nd Place:** Dan Bolles

*Seven Days*

The Ballad of Tom Banjo

**3rd Place:** Robert Kiener

*Stowe Reporter*

Mr. Lipsky goes to Montpelier

## Multimedia

### MultiMedia Coverage

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

The Green Book in New England

**2nd Place:** Chris McDaniel

*The Patriot Ledger*

MIAA high school hockey state championship live coverage: TD Garden takeover

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Live coverage of No Kings rallies across Berkshire County

**3rd Place:** Elijah de Castro, Hannah Schroeder

*The Keene Sentinel*

How financial strain forced local birth center to close

### **MultiMedia Coverage**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Marina Schauffler

*Maine Morning Star*

A firehose of forever chemicals

**1st Place:** Abby Patkin, Kelly Chan, Jessika Landon

*Boston.com*

The most contentious evidence in the Karen Read case

**2nd Place:** Heather Morrison

*MassLive*

'I didn't know how to love': VetDogs provide more than trained service dogs

**3rd Place:** Staff

*MassLive*

From Medway to Gaza: How a Mass. family wound up in a war zone (VIDEO)

### **MultiMedia Coverage**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*Concord Bridge, The*

Milestone 250 LIVE

## **Photography**

### **News Feature Photo**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

MCLA Graduation

Sajaira is clearly living her best life in this image, and the excitement of the moment comes through beautifully. Her expression is engaging, and the layering with the flag adds visual depth.

This photograph genuinely made me happy for Sajaira and her success.

**2nd Place:** Steve Heaslip

*Cape Cod Times*

Fish Survey

I appreciate the framing and the juxtaposition of the large face with the tiny fish. His expression adds curiosity and draws interest to what's happening in the moment. The depth of field feels well chosen and appropriate for the subject matter.

**3rd Place:** Daniel Jacobi II

*Daily Hampshire Gazette*

Dog Show Smooch

The dog's eyes really make this photo. While the man is fully immersed in the moment, the dog seems content to take it or leave it, which adds to the humor. The strong composition of this fun moment makes the image work well for me.

## News Feature Photo

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

Northern lights over Vineyard Haven harbor

Composing the northern lights with the harbor scene brings beauty from the sky while also drawing interest to the motion of the water around the rocks in the foreground. I found myself lingering on the lights, but my eye was equally engaged by the other elements throughout the frame.

**2nd Place:** Jen Manell

*Harvard Press, The*

Booksale

The simple, subtle interaction between the woman and child is a lovely find. The girl's body language, combined with the isolation created by the longer lens, clearly guides the viewer's eye and focuses attention on this moment.

**3rd Place:** Jeanna Shepard

*Vineyard Gazette*

Juneteenth: healing and prayer by the ocean during the march to the beach

I appreciate the emotion in this image, as well as the strong connection between the participants. A tighter crop could help remove some of the edge distractions and keep the focus on what's happening in the center of the frame.

## Multimedia

### News Video

Combined

**1st Place:** Eva Sollberger

*Seven Days*

The Haskell Free Library Finds a Solution to Border Restrictions

**2nd Place:** Taylor Sanzo

*MassLive*

This restaurant is in a Mass. prison and operated by the incarcerated people housed there

**3rd Place:** Eva Sollberger

*Seven Days*

Johnson Public Library Moves to Higher Ground, Out of the Flood Zone

## **Editorial**

### **Obituaries**

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Heather McCarron

*Cape Cod Times*

Alice of Arlo Guthrie's hit song "Alice's Restaurant Massacree" made Provincetown her home. Solid job in localizing a regional, if not national, story for Cape Cod readers - in this case, the death of Alice Brock, restaurateur-turned-artist who inspired Arlo Guthrie's signature ballad, "Alice's Restaurant." Cape Cod Times staffer Heather McCarron gets her priorities straight by first tracing Brock's 40-year legacy in Provincetown and only then rehashing details of the famed sequence of events that led to Guthrie's 1960s protest anthem. Well done.

**2nd Place:** Michael Shepherd

*Bangor Daily News*

'Buddy' Frankland, known for politics and scandal, dies at 89

Interesting approach for a feature obituary that recounts the colorful - and controversial - life of a Bangor, Maine megachurch pastor, in that it relies almost entirely on archival sources and includes but a single contemporary observation. Readers won't leave feeling shortchanged, however, as Rev. "Buddy" Frankland's provocations speak for themselves. The result is a lively and compelling narrative set against a backdrop of evangelical Christendom.

**3rd Place:** Ian Lenahan

*Portsmouth Herald*

Ruth Lewin Griffin lived 'one hell of a life.' Tributes pour in for Portsmouth icon.

This opus of an obit tracing the life and times of New Hampshire political legend Ruth Lewis Griffin brims with detail and compelling anecdotes - so many, in fact, that readers could be forgiven for waving a white flag and giving up part-way through. That would be unfortunate, because the best stuff - marvelous snapshots of Griffin rubbing shoulders with a Who's Who of state and national politicians - reside lower down in the narrative. Portsmouth Herald staffer Ian Lenahan gets extra credit for emptying his notebook, but this is one of those cases where less really can be more.

## Obituaries

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Jennifer Toland

*Telegram & Gazette*

HC community remembers Perry

This well-written and comprehensive retrospective chronicles the life of Holy Cross athletic legend Ron Perry. Reaching out to present and former members of the Holy Cross community, Telegram & Gazette staff writer Jennifer Toland creates a free-flowing narrative that highlights Perry's accomplishments as an athlete, mentor and friend. Nicely done.

**2nd Place:** Brad Petrishen

*Telegram & Gazette*

Bar president-elect dies unexpectedly

Brad Petrishen's well-researched narrative following the sudden death of Worcester defense attorney and bar president-elect Adrian Angus neatly delivers post-mortem observations from friends and colleagues without serving up a laundry list of platitudes - a problem with many entries in this category. More importantly, Petrishen documents how Angus leveraged his multi-racial background to serve the broader Worcester community, providing context and meaning to a short life well lived.

**3rd Place:** Jonathan Phelps

*New Hampshire Union Leader*

Fish & Game Officer Levi Frye remembered for compassion

Both staff writer Jonathan Phelps and his editors at the Union Leader deserve credit for their straightforward approach in addressing the death by suicide of a young Fish & Game officer. Phelps does a good job portraying his subject's softer side, which included regular appearances on the "North Woods Law" reality series. This might have been a first-place entry had personal details, many of which were included in Frey's conventional obituary, been included.

## Obituaries

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Tom Dunlop

*Vineyard Gazette*

Robert Douglas, Legendary Shenandoah Captain, Black Dog Owner, Dies at 93

Tom Dunlop's retrospective on West Tisbury ship designer and captain Robert Douglas should be required reading for any community journalist attempting a feature obituary. As befitting a mariner's tale, Dunlop skillfully navigates the expanse of Douglas' remarkable life (he also founded the Black Dog apparel franchise), serving up pertinent details without allowing them to sink the lengthy narrative. The first five paragraphs, in particular, masterfully summarize Douglas' legacy on Martha's Vineyard while setting the stage for all that follows. This is professional work, professionally done.

**2nd Place:** Cyndi Wood

*Ellsworth American, The*

Ruth Foster, a force of nature, dies at 96

Loved everything about Ellsworth American staff writer Cyndi Wood's post-mortem on former mayor, state legislator and female trailblazer Ruth Foster. Beginning with a delightful lede which depicts a 90-something Foster holding court in her garage during the COVID-19 pandemic, Wood goes beyond accolades to capture the irrepressible spirit of Ellsworth's "grand dame," and her lengthy career in public service. Bravo!

**3rd Place:** Mary Ann Lickteig

*Seven Days*

Life Story: Barbara Nolfi 'Had This View of How Things Ought to Be'

Seven Days staff writer Mary Ann Lickteig does a stellar job chronicling the life of Burlington, Vt. activist Barbara Nolfi, whose counterculture roots foreshadowed a long-standing embrace of progressive politics. Lickteig is a gifted writer with a particular knack for turning a phrase. Her characterization of Nolfi as someone "who rode into Vermont on somebody else's dream (and) spent the rest of her life here building a better reality" is pitch perfect - while her coda depicting Nolfi's simple burial was especially poignant.

## Outstanding Newsletter

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Steven Porter and Amanda Gokee

*Boston Globe, The*

"Globe New Hampshire | Morning Report" newsletter

Masterclass in how to treat a newsletter as a product for distinct audience(s) and specific purposes. Love the opening note, a robust story for a newsletter, then several strategic shoutouts and links to other stories. Has its own clear and distinct branding. Well done!

**2nd Place:** Dan McGowan

*Boston Globe, The*

"Rhode Map" daily newsletter from Globe Rhode Island

There is so much to love about this newsletter, and in fact I kept going back and forth on whether to rank this first or second! It's a toss up. This is a great product for a clear audience. Above all, I love the audience engagement component of quizzes, polls and happy birthday wishes to readers. Bravo!

**3rd Place:** Alexa Gagosz

*Boston Globe, The*

The Food Club, a regional food and dining newsletter from Globe Rhode Island

It's rare to find a newsletter that so cleverly balances being a narrative product with more timely updates and news -- this one does that, all the while creating creative audience engagement pathways with readers. Consider me a new subscriber!

## Outstanding Newsletter

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Katy Savage

*Granite Post*

Granite Post Newsletter

Excellent newsletter and tool for audiences to explore the news. Well targeted to readers looking to both skim and get more context on clarity on trends impacting them and their neighbors. A smooth read with great formatting, too! Bravo!

**2nd Place:** Kristi Palma

*Boston.com*

Scenic Six

Fantastic, well-organized, well-written, straight-forward newsletter written with a clear target audience in mind. Love the mix of destinations and inspiration with tips for the reader. Well done!

**3rd Place:** Staff

*CommonWealth Beacon*

CommonWealth Voices

Very well-reported and written newsletter, certainly intended for audience looking to read and learn more deeply. Love how it is a clear product in itself. Bravo!

## Outstanding Newsletter

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

The Minute

I wish my community had this newsletter! A slam-dunk local newsletter, with clear and clever editorial sections, personality, and good information.

**2nd Place:** Natalia Zukerman

*Lakeville Journal, The*

"What To Do"

Great, informative and personal opener followed by exactly what they say they'll do -- information on what to do! Clear, clean, well-curated and to the point, an all around great newsletter. Bravo.

**3rd Place:** Eli Chavez

*Boston Business Journal*

The Beat

A creative and interesting newsletter serving well-defined audiences. Love how it's written with your audience top of mind. Well done!

## Overall Design and Presentation (Niche Product)

Combined

**1st Place:** Diane Sullivan, Design Staff

*Seven Days*

Find Your Best Buds: Vermont Cannabiz Guide

This is a great design executed with extreme care. The typography matches the subject matter well, and is employed throughout the book, creating a very cohesive look. There are many different kinds of storytelling techniques here, from the word glossary to the products page. Each have been well designed and conform to a common color palette throughout the whole section. This section design is disciplined and yet varied.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

Best of the Best

Great typography for the cover story, which is brought in for good use on the inside spreads, with immaculate technical execution within the negative space of the photo. The inside spreads are well designed. Small detail detracts: the table in the cover photo, a bright white against the color background, is distracting. The content itself is same-y, and that reflects in the interior design, which doesn't push things beyond the typography.

**3rd Place:** Julie Hammill

*The B*

The B Fall Issue

The feature spreads all have some kind of nice touch, such as well-designed art heads and drop caps. The book interior is well-paced, with different kinds of storytelling from longer stories to capsules, each carefully designed. I wish the cover design was more curated, from art directing a photo that had more negative space to having fewer taglines since this is a themed issue.

## Overall Design and Presentation (print newspaper)

Combined

**1st Place:** Design Staff

*Seven Days*

Straw Man

Strong consistent design throughout the book with thoughtful storytelling choices. I like how the thread of the cover illustration picks up with the interior spread, creating continuity and cohesion. The typography throughout is also very cohesive, but adds visual interest.

**2nd Place:** Matt Selva

*Mainebiz*

Tariff Turmoil issue 12/16/24

Solid cover illustration with varied extra-storytelling elements, from icons to breakout key points or charts and tables. The design voice of the publication is very consistent throughout.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Bluedot Living MV*

MV Spring, 2024

Solid design work throughout, with the tiny nitpick that many of the interior spreads and typographic treatments seem to speak at the same volume.

### **Overall Design and Presentation (Special Section)**

Combined

**1st Place:** Design Staff

*Seven Days*

The Connections Issue

Smart, creative illustration that captures the thematic material while injecting some levity. The spreads themselves are branded throughout and are consistent with the visual identity of the special section.

**2nd Place:** Mitchell Hayes

*Worcester Business Journal*

40 Under Forty, 25th anniversary

Designing business news, particularly news revolving around personalities, is very challenging. This design deploys a consistent visual system throughout the book that feels premium and cohesive, while injecting visual variety.

### **Overall Design and Presentation (Specialty)**

Combined

**1st Place:** Mitchell Hayes

*Worcester Business Journal*

Worcester Business Journal

**2nd Place:** Diane Sullivan, Sean Metcalf, Design Staff

*Seven Days*

All the Best, Seven Daysies

**3rd Place:** Justin Lavelly

*North Star Monthly*

North Star Monthly - May 2025

## Photography

### Personality Photo

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Michael Gallagher

A strong personality photograph that clearly communicates who the subject is through environment, expression, and presence. The image stands on its own, offering immediate insight into character and significance without relying on caption or context.

**2nd Place:** Douglas Hook

*The Republican*

Julia Stratton, left, and George Golderesi

A compelling and empathetic image that conveys personality through body language and emotional connection. The photograph humanizes its subjects and offers a clear sense of who they are and why their story matters.

**3rd Place:** Gregory Rec

*Portland Press Herald*

Pandora LaCasse

An engaging personality photo that reflects individuality and creativity through setting and expression. The image effectively communicates what the subject is like, offering a strong sense of character within a feature context.

### Personality Photo

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Sebastian Restrepo

*MassLive*

Health advocate Mayrena Guerrero is a Hispanic leader in Mass.

A confident personality photograph that clearly communicates leadership and purpose through expression and presence. The image offers immediate insight into who the subject is and why she is newsworthy, standing strongly on its own.

**2nd Place:** Michael Salerno

*Rhode Island Current*

Profile photo of Marcus Rivers of Pawtucket

An expressive personality image that conveys character through movement and physicality. The photograph offers a strong sense of individuality and creative energy, effectively revealing what the subject is like.

**3rd Place:** Jim Neuger

*Maine Morning Star*

Maine Gov. Janet Mills

A well-timed personality image that captures the subject in action, conveying authority and presence through context and body language. The photograph effectively reflects the subject's role and public significance.

### **Personality Photo**

Specialty

**1st Place:** Ray Ewing

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

Wil Sideman at the Martha's Vineyard Glassworks

A strong personality photograph that reveals character through action and environment. The image clearly communicates who the subject is and why he is newsworthy, offering immediate insight into identity, skill, and purpose.

**2nd Place:** Matt Wright

*Worcester Business Journal*

Stepping up to the plate (Brooke Cooper)

An effective personality image that conveys leadership and confidence through posture and setting. The photograph offers a clear sense of professional identity while maintaining a strong, composed presence.

**3rd Place:** Abigail Fenton

*The B*

Home Is Where the Hart Is

A warm, engaging personality photograph that reveals character through interaction and expression. The image offers a genuine sense of the subject's humanity and connection.

### **Personality Photo**

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Kaie Quigley

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Up Close and Personal

A compelling personality photograph that draws the viewer in through proximity and expression. The image offers clear emotional access to the subject and succeeds in revealing character through intimacy rather than spectacle.

**2nd Place:** Tori Westphal

*Stowe Reporter*

Oxen Pull

A dynamic image that conveys personality through action and local tradition. The subject's physical engagement and the cultural context provide insight into character, making this a strong example of personality expressed through community activity.

## Personality Photo

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

*Seven Days*

A Marquee Career

A superb personality portrait that seamlessly blends subject, setting, and story. The photographer uses environment and expression to clearly communicate who this person is and why he is newsworthy, making this a standout example of the category.

**2nd Place:** Laura Colantonio

*Valley Breeze*

Edna Kent

A quiet, thoughtful personality photo that conveys character through expression and personal history. The image centers the individual and invites viewers to understand her story without relying on spectacle or action.

**3rd Place:** Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

Abbie Schuster demonstrates her fly fishing technique

An engaging personality image that places the subject within her element. The photograph communicates identity through skill and focus, offering insight into who she is and why she is newsworthy within her community.

## Photo Series

Combined

**1st Place:** Eleonora Bianchi

*New Bedford Light, The*

Hidden in plain sight

Excellent, creative portraits illustrate a timely topic

**2nd Place:** Marc Vasconcellos

*Enterprise, The (Brockton)*

Bridgewater Little League Road To The State Championship

Nice variety of images that tell a story. Nice emotion.

**3rd Place:** Ken McGagh

*Concord Bridge, The*

Patriots Day 2025

Nice images from an annual event

## Photo Story

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

PT for pups

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Cape Cod Times*

Maritime Academy Sea Term

**3rd Place:** Douglas Hook

*The Republican*

Evangelicals bring 6 holy nights to local faithful

## Photo Story

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Tim Greenway

*Mainebiz*

Beyond Vacationland

**2nd Place:** Jim Neuger

*Mainebiz*

Slurpin' USA

**2nd Place:** Gary Higgins

*Boston Business Journal*

Boston Medflight ridealong

**3rd Place:** Lauren Fritscher, Julie Hammill

*The B*

Picnic Perfect

## Photo Story

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Robyn Twomey and Paula Moura

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

In the shadows

**2nd Place:** Edward Boches

*Provincetown Independent*

Women on the Tides

**3rd Place:** Kaie Quigley  
*The Inquirer and Mirror*  
Oh, Buoy

**3rd Place:** William Tracy  
*Ellsworth American, The*  
The Last Press Run

### **Pictorial Photo**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Steve Heaslip  
*Cape Cod Times*  
BogMan

A striking aerial image that transforms an everyday agricultural landscape into an abstract composition. Strong use of color, shape, and scale creates a visually compelling scene that rewards longer viewing.

**2nd Place:** Steve Heaslip  
*Cape Cod Times*  
Northern Light Show

A dramatic nightscape that captures a rare natural phenomenon with a strong sense of atmosphere and scale. The silhouetted figures add context without overpowering the scene.

### **Pictorial Photo**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Staff  
*MassLive*

Forgotten Mass.: Pink House in Newbury (Photos)

This image excels through mood and restraint. Soft light, careful composition, and a strong sense of place allow the scene to speak quietly and powerfully on its own. A timeless pictorial photograph that invites the viewer to linger.

**2nd Place:** Kit Noble  
*Nantucket Current*

Nantucket Current - Pictorial Photo

Atmosphere is the strength of this image. The fog softens structure and detail, creating depth and visual mystery while keeping the emphasis on the overall scene. A thoughtful and effective use of weather to define place.

## Pictorial Photo

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Lindsay Pykosz

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

All Aglow

This image stands out for its excellent use of light and timing. The warm sunrise creates strong atmosphere and a clear sense of place, while the clean composition allows the landscape to carry the moment. A confident and visually rewarding pictorial photograph.

**2nd Place:** John Seip

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Fragile Beauty

A quiet, well-observed moment captured with care and restraint. The shallow depth of field and thoughtful framing highlight the subject while still emphasizing its natural setting. The image conveys delicacy and stillness without excess.

**3rd Place:** Paul Joyce

*Sandwich Enterprise, The*

Littlest Tree

Strong reflections and balanced framing give this image visual symmetry and seasonal appeal. The scene is calm and cohesive, with the environment remaining the clear focus. A solid and effective pictorial entry.

## Pictorial Photo

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Ken McGagh

*Concord Bridge, The*

On Walden Pond

This photograph captures the mood and character of the landscape with clarity and restraint. The composition and tonal balance invite quiet reflection, with the setting firmly at the center of the image. A strong example of pictorial storytelling.

**2nd Place:** Laura Colantonio

*Valley Breeze*

Local field of daffodils

A pleasing sense of season and place defines this image. The wide view and natural color palette allow the landscape to unfold naturally, creating depth and balance throughout the frame.

**3rd Place:** Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

Fisherman prowls the shore of Edgartown Great Pond at Sunset

Warm light and silhouette create a compelling scene, with the landscape remaining the dominant element. The photograph captures a quiet, atmospheric moment well suited to the pictorial category.

## **Editorial**

### **Political Columnist**

Combined

**1st Place:** John L. Micek

*MassLive*

John L. Micek political columnist

By tying policy and politics to values such as fairness, open access to information and strong cross-border ties, Micek reassures readers that their engagement and vigilance still make a difference—and that is quietly hopeful.

**2nd Place:** Adrian Walker

*Boston Globe, The*

Adrian Walker's columns on the Boston mayoral race

Walker writes in a clear, confident voice that makes inside-baseball campaign dynamics feel understandable and relevant to everyday readers. By acknowledging Wu's accomplishments and the legitimacy of scrutinizing her record, these columns model a fair-minded approach that invites readers across the spectrum to stay with the argument.

Ending on clear, concise judgments (by questioning what Kraft's campaign really offers beyond money or whether his situation can realistically change) gives readers a memorable takeaway without resorting to cheap theatrics.

**2nd Place:** GARRY RAYNO

*InDepthNH.org*

Distant Dome

TIE 2nd place: Rayno's "Distant Dome" columns are written in a clear, no-nonsense voice that makes complex policy fights around education and utilities feel understandable and urgent.

**3rd Place:** Dan Haar

*Hearst Connecticut Media*

Dan Haar columns

These pieces are written in a calm, explanatory voice that makes emotionally charged subjects like immigration raids and Trump-leaning first-time voters feel legible rather than chaotic. For example, by emphasizing what state and local actors can do, rather than just what the federal government is doing, the immigration column nudges readers toward a sense of agency instead of helplessness.

**Honorable Mention:** Ruth Bass

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Political Columnist: Ruth Bass

HONORABLE MENTION: The Denali column is written with a graceful, grounded voice that blends personal observation, history and politics in a way that feels both approachable and substantive. Word-painted images give the piece a quiet lyricism while keeping the language plain and newspaper-friendly

## **Photography**

### **Portrait Photo**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Ultrarunner Michael Wardian

**2nd Place:** Linda Coan O'Kresik

*Bangor Daily News*

Lewiston Anniversary

**3rd Place:** Ron Schloerb

*Cape Cod Times*

New Bridge Displacement

**3rd Place:** Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Elizabeth Warren

### **Portrait Photo**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Gary Higgins

*Boston Business Journal*

Christian Miranda

**2nd Place:** Calli Remillard

*Mashpee Enterprise, The*

Little Miss Wampanoag On Orange Shirt Day

**2nd Place:** Coco McCabe

*Ipswich Local News*

Seeing eye to eye with a screech owl

**3rd Place:** Jeanna Shepard

*Vineyard Gazette*

Artist Margot Datz reclining on her porch

## **Editorial**

### **Press Freedom or Right-to-Know**

Combined

**1st Place:** Katherine Revello, Brandon Whiting

*CT Inside Investigator*

Partial Record: Sexual Misconduct and Transparency at CSCU

Long-term commitment to obtaining the information and providing detail; with clear writing and exhaustive documentation.

**1st Place:** Staff

*New Bedford Light, The*

Shining "The Light" on New Bedford's secret public records

Strong persistence in covering this story, including multiple FOI requests that produced results and readable reports providing outstanding detail.

**2nd Place:** Lauren Surbey, Calli Remillard

*Mashpee Enterprise, The*

Open Meeting Law/Agendas In Mashpee

Strong focus over multiple editions, with demonstrated results. Numerous interviews and multiple editorials. Documented clearly the "why" for its readers.

**3rd Place:** Francisco Uranga

*Connecticut Examiner, The*

Old Lyme Officials Ordered to Release Undisclosed Statement Alleging Sexual Assault

Multi-month commitment and an FOI request that produced results. Well-written with enough detail to keep readers up to date across multiple months.

**3rd Place:** Robert Storage

*Connecticut Examiner, The*

3 articles by Robert Storage on transparency in state government

Excellent reports that engage the reader in the issue of transparency. Detailed but retained readability.

### **Protest or Demonstration Coverage**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Alex Appel

*CT Inside Investigator*

Unsafe Space: Students allege two years of antisemitism at Yale University

Well written piece by Alex Appel about Yale University during the Israel-Hamas war.

**1st Place:** Greta Solsaa

*VTDigger.org*

More than 1,000 people protest Vice President J.D. Vance's visit to Vermont

**2nd Place:** Eesha Pendharkar

*Maine Morning Star*

Hundreds turn out for trans students' rights as Maine faces federal compliance countdown

**3rd Place:** Arnie Alpert

*InDepthNH.org*

NH People Speak Out

### **Protest or Demonstration Coverage**

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Liberty Darr

*Other Paper, The*

"South Burlington man walks across the country to 'fix democracy'"

**2nd Place:** Zach Lanning

*Mount Desert Islander*

Nurses, community protest OB unit closure

**3rd Place:** Kaie Quigley

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

"No King For Us"

### **Protest or Demonstration Coverage**

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Abigail Ankeney

*Falmouth Enterprise, The*

Protesters Say Proposed Change To State Law Would Lead To Book Bans

**2nd Place:** William von Herff

*Provincetown Independent*

After Tense Prologue, Film and Discussion Go Forward Without Incident

**3rd Place:** Rachel Hellman

*Seven Days*

Sugarbush's 'Snow Reporter' Critiqued Vance as He Visited

### **Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Ashley Potter

*The Republican*

How 'Julie Doe' got her name back

A deeply reported story that highlights the efforts of a group of trans people working to make the criminal justice system better serve their community.

**2nd Place:** Megan Stewart

*Burlington Free Press*

How did gay marriage become legal? How civil unions paved the way 25 years ago.

At a time when the lived experiences of marginalized communities are being scrubbed from the historical record, this story provides a fascinating and well-written primer on how civil unions first became legal in Vermont.

**3rd Place:** Megan Gray

*Portland Press Herald*

The first transgender woman to compete in Miss Maine is a farmer who loves to dance

This nuanced profile challenges assumptions about the trans community.

### **Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Auditi Guha

*VTDigger.org*

Superintendent navigates after being detained, interrogated in Texas

Through extensive reporting and elegant writing this story bears witness to how Trump administration policies are subjecting immigrants -- even those with U.S. citizenship -- to legally questionable harassment and terror.

**2nd Place:** Emma Davis

*Maine Morning Star*

Ban on state seizure of Wabanaki land passes Legislature, but likely to be vetoed

A well-reported and cleanly written example of how a straightforward legislative story can educate readers about a community's history and challenges.

**3rd Place:** Kevin G. Andrade and Colin Hogan

*New Bedford Light, The*

A nossa terra ('Our land'): Portuguese-speaking community decried New Bedford library closure

A thoughtful story about how one city's budget woes might strip an immigrant community of an important gathering place.

### **Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Thomas Humphrey

*Martha's Vineyard Magazine*

Long Journey Home

An elegant narrative that explains ongoing efforts to return the remains of Indigenous peoples to their proper resting places.

**2nd Place:** John Flowers

*Addison County Independent*

Gender book bans in school

An excellent example of well-reported community journalism that reflects a nuanced understanding of the many issues facing the trans community.

**3rd Place:** Mica Kanner-Mascolo

*Worcester Business Journal*

United force

This feature pushes back against the prevailing narrative that corporate DEI policies are bad business by celebrating local companies that remain committed to diversity.

## Reporting on Religious Issues

Combined

**1st Place:** Joe Sexton

*Seven Days*

In Barre, a Church for the Addicted Seeks to Save Souls

My goodness. Rarely in my 25 years of religion reporting have I read a piece that takes my breath away like this one. Great story telling -with rock solid reporting and a just the facts approach of how faith impacts people's lives. Bravo

**2nd Place:** Derek Brouwer

*Seven Days*

Burlington Bishop Hears Sex Abuse Survivors' Stories

Mercy - what a powerful piece about the impact of abuse -- powerful storytelling -

**3rd Place:** Jonny Williams

*Providence Journal*

ASL church

well-done profile of this unusual faith community - mixes background material with some really great details and presented in a readable and appealing manner -nicely done

**3rd Place:** Aaron Calvin

*News & Citizen*

"A guru preaches Buddhism for the A.I. age"

Super interesting story about the intersection of an ancient religion and technology --nicely done

## **Rookie of the Year**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Ally LeMaster

*Connecticut Examiner, The*

6 articles by Ally LeMaster - Rookie of the Year

Ally LeMaster is a newcomer to journalism, but her list of hard-hitting investigative stories is already long and extraordinarily impressive. She began by breaking news of widespread misconduct in the East Lyme Police Department, including the wrongful arrest and bullying of a man with “limited intellectual ability and gender dysphoria.”

She also uncovered significant sexual misconduct by an investigating police detective.

Ally additionally broke news on the destruction of evidence by East Lyme officers, and the failure to arrest the chief of police for repeated cases of spousal abuse and to notify DCF of a child injured at his hands.

She likewise broke stories about a fire chief suspected of arson and a police chief in Old Saybrook who was investigated and forced to retire.

And that’s just a small list of Ally’s reporting accomplishments.

CT Examiner Editor-In-Chief Gregory Stroud said, “I’d put her work up against any other local reporter in the state of Connecticut, young or old. She’s that good.”

She absolutely deserves to be a NENPA Rookie of the Year.

## **Rookie of the Year**

Weekly and Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Maya Shavit

*Boston Business Journal*

Maya Shavit

Upon her graduation from Boston University in April 2025, Maya Shavit was hired by the Boston Business Journal as a Projects Reporter. According to Executive Editor E. Douglas Banks, it was less than a month after Maya started that she broke one of the biggest higher education news stories of the year – a federal judge blocked the Trump Administration from banning Harvard’s international students.

The next month, Maya was the first to report that more than two dozen corporate sponsors of Boston’s annual Boston Pride festivities had gone silent compared to the year before.

Those were just a couple of the big stories she covered during her first year as a professional journalist.

According to Banks, “Maya is committed to working in print journalism and has the ideal blend of early accomplishment and significant upside when it comes to investigative reporting and writing.”

She has earned the title of NENPA Rookie of the Year.

## Science/Technology Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** John Moritz

*Connecticut Mirror, The*

How a CT student's research project became a casualty of Trump's DEI purge

Through the experience of a high school student who lost federal support for her environmental research, this compelling story shows the downstream impacts of cutting funding to young people seeking to better their communities. By describing the student's findings as well, the author makes clear the importance of this kind of research and of supporting the next generation of civic-minded science and environmental talent.

**2nd Place:** Emma Davis

*Maine Morning Star*

'Buckle up': Data privacy bills back before Maine Legislature

This wonderfully done story lays out the differences between various legislative proposals to protect privacy and data in Maine. Without sacrificing detail, the author provides critical context, helpful comparisons, and excellent analysis, making the intricacies of this complex, critically important subject clear and accessible.

**3rd Place:** Will Katcher

*MassLive*

To help small New England farms, these students built a 'Roomba' for weeds

The fun story of a team of students building an affordable robot to help small New England farms meet their particular weeding needs. This piece brings the process of innovation and collaboration alive, while also providing important caveats and context.

## Science/Technology Reporting

Weekly and Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Katie Castellani, PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

A higher health care intelligence

This engaging story describes some of the ways AI is being used in health care in Rhode Island, and the promise some entrepreneurs and researchers see for future applications. At the same time, the story outlines concerns about AI in healthcare, giving examples of people in the industry who are moving cautiously for now. Balanced, and with plenty of interesting examples and important caveats, the story provides a well-written, widely sourced overview of the issues.

**2nd Place:** Sam Moore

*Bluedot Living MV*

Shorebirds of the Atlantic Flyway

This wonderfully written feature blends news about recent research on shorebird declines with important historical and regulatory context. The author uses some personal reflection to good advantage, musing on the human relationship to birds, a key aspect of the ongoing research news story. A comprehensive and engaging overview of a critical aspect of the biodiversity crisis.

## Serious Columnist

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Dan McGowan

*Boston Globe, The*

Serious columns by Globe Rhode Island Columnist Dan McGowan

McGowan's columns showcase energetic, interesting and easy-to-read metro-column writing that mixes sharp voice with clear reporting and a strong sense of place.

**2nd Place:** Don Morrison

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Serious Columnist: Don Morrison

Morrison's columns masterfully blend personal family history, literary references and contemporary critique into compact emotionally resonant reflections.

**2nd Place:** Leslie Bridgers

*Portland Press Herald*

Leslie Bridgers columns

Bridgers's columns show strong, place-based feature writing that use specific detail and carefully chosen structure to carry fairly emotional material without tipping into sentimentality.

**3rd Place:** Dalton Delan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Dalton Delan: The Unspin Room

Delan's column is a well-argued, data-rich piece of opinion writing that combines vivid framing, clear structure and effective sourcing to make complex policy problems accessible.

**Honorable Mention:** Ruth Bass

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Serious Columnist: Ruth Bass

HONORABLE MENTION: Bass's column is a vivid, tightly crafted nature allegory that transforms backyard wildlife sightings into a sharp political cautionary tale with elegant economy.

## Serious Columnist

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** John L. Micek

*MassLive*

John L. Micek serious columnist

Micek's columns are tightly structured, well-reported pieces that blend clear exposition with pointed, accessible analysis, making complex public issues feel urgent, but not so daunting as to be unsolvable.

**2nd Place:** Shamecca Brown

*Granite State News Collaborative*

Importance of DEI and Social Justice

Brown's columns are strong, voice-driven personal stories that use vivid anecdotes while directly addressing readers with clear throughlines to make complex systemic issues feel immediate and human.

### **Serious Columnist**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Bill Eville

*Vineyard Gazette*

Wisdom of Youth; School Year Begins

Bill Eville's columns are warm, reflective pieces that turn small, everyday moments into quietly resonant stories about family, memory and growing older. The voice is conversational but thoughtful, and invites readers to feel like companions riding along in the car, walking school hallways, or revisiting old haunts from youth. Scene by scene, he stitches together past and present in a way that feels intimate rather than nostalgic, so the sentiment comes across as earned, not sentimental

**2nd Place:** Wilson Kerr

*Concord Bridge, The*

Time Outdoors

Wilson Kerr's columns are enjoyable for their vivid, sensory immersion in nature and local history, blending personal memory with clear-eyed advocacy for land, farms and outdoor time. He turns ordinary mornings and family farms into celebrations of place and resilience, using crisp details to make the outdoors feel alive and urgent.

**3rd Place:** Dennis Minsky

*Provincetown Independent*

The Year-Rounder

Dennis Minsky's columns stand out for their morally serious but deeply humane voice, taking big, unsettling political moments and turning them into intimate reflections on conscience, citizenship, and how to live decently.

### **Social Issues Feature Story**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Patrick O'Connor

*The Republican*

Hard Times: A primer on the challenge of healing from civic trauma

Truly impressive group of stories not just conveying the breadth of what kids go through who are exposed to trauma, but also the nuances of the problem. An important and inspired effort on a little-reported problem.

**2nd Place:** Jack Perry

*Providence Journal*

Preventing drownings

This story goes into the problem of young people not knowing how to swim in a state known for its proximity to water. An important exploration on an issue with often tragic consequences.

**3rd Place:** Christopher Muther

*Boston Globe, The*

They've had enough of the political turmoil: More Americans are applying for dual citizenship

A really in-depth look at the phenomenon of dual citizenship and its rising popularity. Very interesting!

### **Social Issues Feature Story**

Specialty Publications

**1st Place:** Mica Kanner-Mascolo

*Worcester Business Journal*

Overcoming barriers

**2nd Place:** Britt Bowker

*Bluedot Living MV*

Salvage and Reuse on Nantucket

**3rd Place:** Lucas Thors

*Bluedot Living MV*

We Need Our Fish Back

### **Social Issues Feature Story**

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Julie Gowel

*Harvard Press, The*

Invisible hunger: How Loaves & Fishes is feeding families in need

**2nd Place:** Liberty Darr

*Other Paper, The*

"South Burlington Police Department adds community services unit"

**3rd Place:** Paul Wein

*Vermont Standard, The*

Acorns in the wind

## Social Issues Feature Story

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Courtney Lamdin

*Seven Days*

Burlingtonians Adapt as Drug Use and Safety Concerns Rise

**2nd Place:** Louisa Hufstader

*Vineyard Gazette*

Harbor Homes Winter Shelter to Move to Edgartown Churches

**2nd Place:** Cam Kettles

*Provincetown Independent*

When the Boss Is Your Landlord, It's Complicated

**3rd Place:** Liberty Darr & Briana Brady

*Citizen, The (Charlotte)*

"Librarians grapple with uncertainty over federal fiats"

## Multimedia

### Social Media Engagement

Daily and Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Staff

*Valley Breeze*

The Valley Breeze Facebook Page

The Valley Breeze demonstrates outstanding social media engagement through a clearly articulated, data-driven strategy that successfully adapted to platform algorithm changes. By prioritizing visually driven posts, community-focused storytelling, and conversation-spark-ing content, the newsroom achieved exceptional levels of impressions, comments, shares, and link clicks, making this a standout example of effective audience engagement.

**2nd Place:** Sadie Layher

*Boston Globe, The*

Social Media Engagement, Globe New Hampshire

The Globe New Hampshire social media portfolio shows strong audience engagement through consistent, region-specific storytelling and effective use of video and photography gathered by reporters in the field. Clear audience growth and platform-appropriate execution demonstrate a thoughtful engagement strategy with measurable impact.

**3rd Place:** Sadie Layher and Carlos R. Muñoz

*Boston Globe, The*

Social media engagement, Globe Rhode Island

The Globe Rhode Island portfolio highlights effective engagement through short-form video and audio-driven storytelling on Instagram and TikTok. The strategic repackaging of reporting for social platforms supports audience connection and demonstrates a strong, evolving approach to engagement.

## **Social Media Engagement**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Staff

*MassLive*

MassLive Big E TikToks

MassLive's Big E TikTok coverage demonstrates outstanding audience engagement through a sustained, platform-native storytelling strategy that resonated strongly with viewers. The consistent use of video, tone, and format shows a clear understanding of TikTok as an engagement tool, resulting in repeat interaction and strong community response across multiple posts.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*MassLive*

MassLive's Election TikToks

MassLive's election TikToks successfully translate civic reporting into accessible, engaging social media content designed for a digital audience. The series reflects strong journalistic purpose and thoughtful execution, using video and visuals to inform and engage viewers around important public issues.

## **Editorial**

### **Social Media Portfolio**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com Social Media

Boston.com demonstrates consistent, high-quality storytelling across multiple social media platforms, with a polished, platform-native approach to video, graphics, and visual journalism. The portfolio reflects a mature, newsroom-wide social strategy that effectively engages audiences while reinforcing a clear and cohesive brand voice.

**2nd Place: Staff**

*MassLive*

MassLive Social Media Portfolio

MassLive shows strong command of multimedia storytelling across platforms, particularly through effective use of video and visual formats on Instagram and TikTok. The portfolio reflects an evolving and confident social media presence that prioritizes engagement, timeliness, and platform-appropriate storytelling.

**3rd Place: Staff**

*Hearst Connecticut Media*

CT Insider's social media portfolio

CT Insider's social media portfolio demonstrates consistent growth and development across channels, with increasing emphasis on multimedia and visual storytelling. While individual posts may be less flashy than some peers, the overall portfolio reflects a thoughtful, organization-wide commitment to strengthening social engagement and storytelling.

**Special Section or Editorial Supplement**

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place: Staff**

*Boston.com*

Boston Calling 2025

The Boston.com Memorial Day weekend music festival page is clean, easy to navigate, and well-organized. Its straightforward design prioritizes content, featuring clearly labeled sections, readable typography, and fast-loading pages. Social media links are conveniently placed on the page, allowing readers to connect with broader platforms and enhancing community engagement.

I really enjoyed the social media videos and large photos showcasing the various acts.

**2nd Place: Staff**

*Boston Globe, The*

Boston Globe Ideas' The Wisdom Issue

A thoughtful examination of aging and the wisdom it offers. A distinctive viewpoint on the benefits and challenges it presents. A delightful read.

**3rd Place: Staff**

*CommonWealth Beacon*

Our Changing Climate

This outstanding online feature connects various aspects of how Massachusetts is responding to changing climate trends. It highlights how local communities, government agencies, and experts are collaborating to tackle the challenges posed by a warming planet. The storytelling is engaging and well-crafted, demonstrating that quality journalism is thriving in your area.

## Special Section or Editorial Supplement

Specialty

**1st Place:** James Bessette, Anne Ewing, PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

PBN Forty under 40

Great job highlighting the best and brightest young professionals in this engaging publication. The cover design is unique and creative, and the feature on the honorees looks fantastic. I'm sure that each honoree purchased multiple copies of this edition, making it a treasured keepsake for years to come. This is a clever and effective way to keep readers engaged with the magazine.

**2nd Place:** staff

*Bluedot Living MV*

The Food Issue

Beautifully crafted with breathtaking photography and thoughtful headings. An excellent piece overall that captures the essence of life in Martha's Vineyard. A truly stunning work in its entirety.

**3rd Place:** staff

*Bluedot Living MV*

Green Home Projects

This publication features compelling stories that highlight a range of experiences, from growing up off the grid and preserving ceiling beams to showcasing innovative businesses and heartfelt volunteer efforts. With a clear and engaging narrative style, each piece is polished and authentic. The clean, eye-catching layouts and beautiful photography make it stand out from the competition.

## Special Section or Editorial Supplement

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Seven Days Staff

*Seven Days*

Gift Guide: The Seven Days Holiday Shopping Handbook

I absolutely love this gift guide magazine! It's impressive how someone took the time to find such creative, innovative, and unique gifts for this edition. The cool gift ideas really capture the essence of living in Vermont. After reading the guide, I decided to buy the Little Tree Terrarium Kit. The photos are excellent, and the overall design of the magazine is fantastic!

**2nd Place:** Stephen Orr, Teresa Parker, Susan Abbott

*Provincetown Independent*

Provincetown Independent, Beach/House Fall 2024 Supplement

A comprehensive product from start to finish. The editorial pages are well-organized and feature diverse content. The photography is outstanding. If you currently live in or are planning to move to Provincetown, this publication is essential reading.

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Vineyard Gazette*

Amity Gazette

This is a fantastic edition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the movie Jaws! It's a great way to capture the essence of this once-in-a-generation event. This publication is excellent for locals, tourists, and anyone who loves the film and wants to explore the production and behind-the-scenes events that took place during filming.

**Special Sports Section**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Jamie Cushman, Editor

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Fall Sports Extra

Outstanding photography and design from start to finish! Great use of graphics, stats and interesting features on all the fall teams, sensational!

**2nd Place:** Ryan McLaughlin

*Ellsworth American, The*

Tourney Time

It's obvious that a lot of effort went into this special section. The layout is crisp and thorough, great photography throughout. These high school athletes are so fortunate to be showcased in this way,

**3rd Place:** Dave Plath, Nicholas Vukota and David Creed

*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

Fenway Showdown

Terrific special section on a special football rivalry. The photography and writing is first class and it captures the magnitude of this great high school experience, great job.

**Photography**

**Sports Action Photo**

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Ron Schloerb

*Cape Cod Times*

Dust Slide

**2nd Place:** Daniel Jacobi II

*Daily Hampshire Gazette*

Collision at the Net

**3rd Place:** Ron Schloerb

*Cape Cod Times*

Dirty Game

## **Sports Action Photo**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

Cam Napior braves the cold water for a surfing session

**2nd Place:** Steve James

*Addison County Independent*

Panther save

**3rd Place:** Steve James

*Addison County Independent*

Clark dives back

## **Editorial**

### **Sports Columnist**

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Chip Ainsworth

*Greenfield Recorder, The*

Keeping Score with Chip Ainsworth

**2nd Place:** Phil Stacey, Matt Williams

*Salem News, The*

Peering into our Crystal Ball to predict the '24 high school football season

**3rd Place:** Larry Mahoney

*Bangor Daily News*

Larry Mahoney

### **Sports Columnist**

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Jesse Kolodkin

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Sports Columnist: Jesse Kolodkin

**2nd Place:** Roberta Baker

*New Hampshire Union Leader*

NH Winter

**3rd Place:** Stewart Edelstein

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Word of the Week

## Sports Columnist

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Conor Ryan

*Boston.com*

Conor Ryan's Sports Columns

First rate columns regarding local professionals, who couldn't be more different. Conor chronicled Marchand's rise from Nova Scotia to the Bruins captaincy. He was able to articulate just how loved he was by the Boston fandom.

His analysis of Belichick's post Patriots coaching career was so in-depth, it's clear that he has his pulse on the New England sports scene.

**2nd Place:** Matt Vautour

*MassLive*

Matt Vautour sports columnist

Matt was able to capture the depth of sorrow and despair felt locally from the devastating plane crash that took the lives of 28 members of the figure skating community, which included 6 from the Figure Skating Club of Boston. The tragedy touched so many lives and Matt was able to put together this masterpiece.

Also his column regarding Belichick's legacy was insightful and thought provoking.

**3rd Place:** Sean McAdam

*MassLive*

Sean McAdam sports columnist

Sean was able to breakdown what helped lead to Dever's shocking fall from the Red Sox graces in ways that make you realize the magnitude as to how it will affect the Red Sox in both the short term and long term. It's crystal clear that Sean knows his way around the local baseball team, the good, the bad and unfortunately the ugly.

## Sports Columnist

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Karl Lindholm

*Addison County Independent*

Sports columns Karl Lindholm Addison Independent Boffey & baseball

**2nd Place:** Ryan McLaughlin

*Ellsworth American, The*

The Red Zone

## Photography

### Sports Feature Photo

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Daniel Jacobi II

*Daily Hampshire Gazette*

Basking in Victory

Dunk photos are not easy to get. This one is perfectly framed and all elements add to the image.

**2nd Place:** Marc Vasconcellos

*Enterprise, The (Brockton)*

Owen King and Quinlan Keefe lead B-R baseball to MIAA state tournament win great moment. I love that there is both victory and defeat in this image. nice framing

**3rd Place:** Glenn Russell

*VTDigger.org*

UVM Fans Celebrate National Championship Win

Great idea to go to a watch party to get fan reaction. I love the blue light of the bar/screen and that everyone in the photo is engaged and reacting.

### Sports Feature Photo

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Gary Higgins

*Boston Business Journal*

Northeastern University wins the Beanpot

**2nd Place:** Tim Johnson

*Vineyard Gazette*

Family plays hockey on Duarte's pond

**3rd Place:** Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

The high school football team prepares to play in the Island Cup at Fenway Park

## Editorial

### Sports Feature Story

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Kyle Grabowski

*The MetroWest Daily News*

Blackstone Valley track star Haley Bilodeau also plays violin in a top youth orchestra

The lede not only pulls the reader in but puts you in the room to start this story. The writer has great flow with stats, details and quotes. A pleasure to read.

**2nd Place:** Kyle Grabowski

*The MetroWest Daily News*

'Ultimate dream': Kentucky Derby horse Flying Mohawk raised by Sudbury's Kristy McDermott  
The story has great flow and reads so easily.

**3rd Place:** Jason Snow

*The Patriot Ledger*

'He has that 'Wow' factor': South Shore 13-year-old already has D-1 college football offer  
Detail-packed story that fully explains why a 13-year-old got a D-I offer.

### **Sports Feature Story**

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Bob Hohler

*Boston Globe, The*

How a brain injury changed this Sharon football player's life  
Writer does an excellent job using color and details to ground the reader in the moment of the injury. Answers questions just as they arise about what went wrong and the specifics of how long getting help took and why that mattered so much. Crucial journalism here.

**2nd Place:** Drew Bonifant

*Portland Press Herald*

Love of field hockey, and her teammates, keeps Falmouth senior going  
Great lead sucks the reader in. Details and quotes made this a pleasure to read.

**3rd Place:** Gavin Keefe

*Day, The*

CAPTAIN'S COURAGEOUS

The nut graf is a gut punch that keeps you reading to learn more.

### **Sports Feature Story**

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Chris Cotillo

*MassLive*

'Be a Tigger': Red Sox draft pick takes late mom's legacy, motto into pro career  
Not just another story about a top prospect. Layered with emotional details and so well told tough to read through tears. Well done!

**2nd Place:** Conor Ryan

*Boston.com*

Scally caps and squid hats: Inside the Bruins' hat-trick trophy collection  
A great tale of detective work and entertaining writing. Impossible not to enjoy a story that includes the words "chartreuse cephalopod." Also includes plenty of voices telling a well-rounded story.

**3rd Place:** Mark Daniels

*MassLive*

Sunshine in his pocket: Memory of lost 'brother' fuels Patriots' Will Campbell

A detailed look at a top draft pick that delves into more than just physical details and bio.

### **Sports Feature Story**

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Trevor Hass

*Duxbury Clipper*

Greater purpose: Pisco gives back during arduous journey

Inspiring detailed story, written well.

**2nd Place:** Amy Ash Nixon

*Journal Opinion*

Newbury farmer headed to Masters World Cup

Amazing story. Well-documented and well-written.

### **Sports Section**

Combined

**1st Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Sports, Feb. 24, 2025

The coverage of the local high school sports is comprehensive and captures a full array of emotions. From the highs of winning a championship to the heartache of losing. The photography is stunning as well as the headlines and graphics. A true testament to the immense support to their local communities.

**2nd Place:** Jamie Cushman, Editor

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Sports

The Inquirer and Mirror's coverage of the Fenway rivalry game captured the significance of this great spectacle. They were also able to include a winter sports preview as well as some fall recaps. The photos jump right off the page and the reporting is exceptional.

**3rd Place:** Andy Kirkaldy, Steve James and Jessie Raymond

*Addison County Independent*

Sports section March 6, 2025 Addison Independent

The coverage of local sports is exceptional. A sports section jam packed with a vast array of local sports, the photos capture the spirit of these sports moments, terrific job by the sports staff.

## Sports Story

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Kyle Grabowski

*The MetroWest Daily News*

Top high school pitchers tell how to throw their best pitches, why they're so hard to hit  
An excellent, comprehensive piece that provides lots of original insight on the mechanics of pitching while also displaying the unique character behind various pitchers in the area. The photographic and video components are excellent as well and help really turn this into a complete feature package. A great piece that strikes the perfect balance of informing and entertaining.

**2nd Place:** Michael M. McMahon

*The Keene Sentinel*

At Conant, coaches reeling from budget cuts hoping for answers  
An important piece that captures an uncomfortable development for athletes, coaches, and fans. The piece does well to take us into the experiences and emotions of the athletes and coaches affected by the budget cuts as well as contextualize the larger issues related to the school budget and athletic participation.

**3rd Place:** Jason Snow

*The Patriot Ledger*

The Miracle on Hancock Street: Galligan comes up clutch in North Quincy's Thanksgiving win  
A very nice piece with a cohesive framing that carries throughout. There are a number of compelling quotes that give insight into the dramatic moments and go beyond the typical post-game quotes. An excellent photo package that accompanies the story really helps to sell the importance and emotion of the event.

## Sports Story

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Mark Daniels

*MassLive*

'Take 'em to the hill' — Inside the newest Patriots rallying cry

An excellent piece that explains a piece of team trivia while placing it in a larger historical and cultural context. The piece does an excellent job moving between the story of how the term came about and using it as a way to analyze the team and reflect on its evolution this season.

**2nd Place:** Conor Ryan

*Boston.com*

What led Red Sox to trade Rafael Devers? Recapping a tumultuous season

A comprehensive and informative piece that succinctly charts the progression of events leading to the Devers trade. The layout is clear, the supporting photos, videos, and social media posts appropriately placed, and the analysis restrained, yet firm. This is an excellent example of how reporters can distill complex and winding sagas into digestible content for readers.

**3rd Place:** Jesse Kolodkin

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Monument gets its revenge

A nice story that does a good job framing the team's win against the previous year's disappointment. The story has a good rhythm that sets the stage for the game, covers in detail, and then reflects on its meaning for those involved. A nice photo package with good shots showcasing the emotion of the players and coaches does a fine job reinforcing the themes of the story.

## Sports Story

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Evan Walsh

*Community Advocate*

HAWKS MAKE HISTORY: Hudson ends 'special' run with Super Bowl victory

Well crafted story with clear writing, vivid (but not hyperbolic) storytelling, good quotes, and excellent photographs. A very professionally done piece.

**2nd Place:** Jacqueline Welsh

*Mount Desert Islander*

Climb with Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School offers a unique way to see the Maine coast

An interesting story outside the usual sports and recreation topics. The story does a good job framing the climbing school and its philosophy, as well as what the experience is like. The story is well supplemented with good photographs, particularly the main photo for the piece, as well as an interesting graphic of a carabiner and rope.

**3rd Place:** Eli Chavez and Grant Welker

*Boston Business Journal*

Bill Chisholm's \$6.1B Celtics purchase approved, marking largest US sports team sale

An admirable piece that showcases how reporters can still put together a compelling and insightful story even when they can't get access to the people they want. This piece also speaks to one of the most important roles for a journalist, giving the public insight into the individuals who run and control important social and cultural institutions.

## Multimedia

### Sports Video

Combined

**1st Place:** Randy Vazquez, Anush Elbakyan, Olivia Yarvis

*Boston Globe, The*

Three Kings: The story of Pedro Martinez, David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez, and the 2004 Red Sox

**2nd Place:** Eva Sollberger

*Seven Days*

Evan Perkins Shares His Wild Ice Skating Videos Online

## Photography

### Spot News Photo

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Marc Vasconcellos

*Enterprise, The (Brockton)*

Fire crews battle 4-alarm fire at Stoughton apartment complex

**2nd Place:** Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

Build back stronger

**3rd Place:** Sebastian Restrepo

*MassLive*

Police investigate body hanging from Springfield cemetery fence

### Spot News Photo

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Gary Higgins

*Boston Business Journal*

Medflight EMT at work

**2nd Place:** Richard Swenson

*Journal Opinion*

Horse Stuck in Mud

**3rd Place:** Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

Ice agents remove detainees from Island on Coast Guard vessel in Menemsha harbor

## Editorial

### Spot News Story

Daily Newspapers and Online Publications

**1st Place:** Abby Patkin

*Boston.com*

9 dead, 1 critical in Fall River assisted living facility fire. Here's what we know.

Abby Patkin did a spectacular job, appearing to leave no stone unturned, and covering every facet of this tragic story up to the moment of publication including key details like scrambling to fill prescriptions, and the impact of understaffing on responding fire apparatus. An exceptional breaking news report

**2nd Place:** Claire O'Callahan, Heather Bellow

*The Berkshire Eagle*

'I saw the mountain burning'

The integration of aerial and front line photography, compelling print layout, along with online pullouts providing information about the fire location and a timeline of forest and wildfires helps elevate this breaking news reporting, even though there was comparatively minimal drama or sensational aspects related to the incident.

**3rd Place:** Lisa Connell

*Berlin Sun*

City mourns murdered restaurant worker

A well-rounded breaking news report relating key details and digging deeper into the history of the alleged offender's records, scouring social media for perspectives, and further shedding light on the failure of initiatives and protections that may have otherwise saved the victim's life.

### Spot News Story

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Ethan Genter

*Vineyard Gazette*

Federal Officers Arrest 40 on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket

A fantastic day-long snapshot of ICE activities in this newspaper's own back yard. Well balanced content between official details, witness/source accounts, and some of the reporter's own observations made for an engaging article.

**2nd Place:** Christine Legere

*Provincetown Independent*

Builder Hired to Restore Cottage Tears It Down

This reporter turned into what may have been a much more brief, finger pointer 'gotcha' story. But instead readers got magnificent service from this story with substantial detail on the apparently unauthorized demolition, the possibility of environmental consequences from the debris, and how officials and those involved scrambled to handle fallout from the incident while crafting alternate plans for the site.

**3rd Place:** Briana Brady

*Citizen, The (Charlotte)*

"Mobile home park goes without water for a week after leak"

Not super sexy subject matter, but kudos to this reporter for thoroughly covering all the bases, while doing a tremendous public service uncovering both the miscommunication to fire and municipal officials, as well as the lack of a mandated water restoration deadline during crisis situations.

## Transportation Reporting

Daily Newspapers

**1st Place:** Patricia Wen

*Boston Globe, The*

Even the MBTA can't stop Phil Eng

nice bio piece that weaves in transportation and the complexities of leading a large system.

**2nd Place:** Shannon Larson, Scooty Nickerson

*Boston Globe, The*

Boston's most dangerous intersections

The mapping alone makes this piece stand out.

**3rd Place:** Dan Medeiros

*Herald News, The (Fall River )*

South Coast Rail is finally running after 34 years. Commuters to Boston ready for Day One

.

## Transportation Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Benjamin Cassidy

*Maine Monitor, The*

Rumble strips are saving lives — and money — on rural Maine roads

This story was very good. The bar plot seems a little disconnected from the article, but I like how this simple road treatment has such a complex story.

**2nd Place:** Jason Graziadei

*Nantucket Current*

Nantucket Current - Transportation Reporting

**3rd Place:** Tréa Lavery

*MassLive*

MBTA's service hours leave late-night travelers, workers stranded. Officials look for solutions

## Transportation Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

**1st Place:** Derek Brouwer

*Seven Days*

Green Mountain Transit Searches for Cash — and Its 'Soul'

The writing of this is quite good, and the story is richly reported.

**2nd Place:** Paul Benson

*Provincetown Independent*

Series of 3 articles on the loss of year-round flights in Provincetown

**3rd Place:** Kaie Quigley

*The Inquirer and Mirror*

Nantucket Sound speed restrictions "devastating"

### **Rookie of the Year**

Weekly and Specialty Publications

Maya Shavit

*The Boston Business Journal*

### **Rookie of the Year**

Daily and Online Publications

Ally LeMaster

*The Connecticut Examiner*

### **Photojournalist of the Year**

Weekly and Specialty Publications

Ray Ewing

*Vineyard Gazette*

### **Photojournalist of the Year**

Daily and Online Publications

Stephanie Zollshan

*The Berkshire Eagle*

### **Reporter of the Year**

Combined

Alison Novak

*Seven Days*

### **General Excellence**

Daily 1

**1st Place:** Staff

*Gloucester Daily Times*

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Bangor Daily News*

### **General Excellence**

Daily 2

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston Globe, The*

**2nd Place:** Staff

*The Berkshire Eagle*

**3rd Place:** Staff

*Day, The*

General Excellence

### General Excellence

News Services and Online News Sites

**1st Place:** Staff

*MassLive*

MassLive demonstrates outstanding general excellence as a comprehensive digital news organization. The site delivers consistent, high-quality local and statewide reporting alongside ambitious enterprise and investigative journalism with clear civic impact. Broad, well-balanced coverage, strong editorial leadership, polished presentation, and well-integrated advertising and digital products distinguish MassLive as a full-service newsroom setting a high standard for online news.

**2nd Place:** Staff

*Boston.com*

Boston.com demonstrates strong general excellence as a comprehensive digital news platform serving a broad regional audience. The site delivers a wide mix of news, culture, and service journalism, supported by clear editorial planning and effective explanatory reporting. Polished presentation, engaging visual storytelling, and well-integrated advertising and digital products distinguish Boston.com as a sophisticated and reader-focused online news operation.

### General Excellence

Specialty

**1st Place:** Amy Conway, Julie Hammill, Michelle Petricca

*The B*

**1st Place:** Staff

*Boston Business Journal*

**2nd Place:** PBN Staff

*Providence Business News*

**3rd Place:** staff

*Bluedot Living MV*

### General Excellence

Weekly 1

**1st Place:** Harvard Press Staff

*Harvard Press, The*

**2nd Place:** Phil Camp and Staff  
*Vermont Standard, The*

**2nd Place:** Staff  
*The Martha's Vineyard Times*

**3rd Place:** Staff  
*Mount Desert Islander*

**General Excellence**

Weekly 2

**1st Place:** Staff  
*Addison County Independent*

**2nd Place:** Seven Days Staff  
*Seven Days*

**2nd Place:** Staff  
*Provincetown Independent*

**3rd Place:** Staff  
*News & Citizen*