

INSIDE: COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES COMMENTS

Presented on February 24, 2018

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS JOURNALISM



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

This year's special award winners

General Excellence

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Concord (NH) Monitor
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Providence (RI) Business News

Rookies of the Year

Aimee Chiavaroli, *The Standard-Times,
New Bedford (MA)*
Hadley Barndollar, *Exeter (NH) News-Letter*

Reporters of the Year

Neal Simpson, *The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA*
Dan MacAlpine, *Ipswich (MA) Chronicle*

Photojournalists of the Year

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

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Specialty Publications

First Place: Joshua Lyford,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Very lively pages! Well-written story about murals with great photos. Very in-depth, with attention to detail.

Second Place: Lisa Lynn,

VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT

Fun and spinted writing, and really captures the subject. Great layout and photos too!

Third Place: Joshua Lyford,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Interesting angle on an art exhibit. Very thorough, with great photos.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Liz Graves,

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

This story pulled me in. What could have been a run-of-the-mill event preview became something more interesting and insightful and left me thinking about revisiting Shakespeare, history, modern education, and more.

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

I learned something new about Todd Rundgren and his fans and enjoyed the focus on his community.

Third Place: Nick Greenhalgh,

Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA

This is a different kind of arts story! The lead engages readers, and I especially enjoyed the small details included in the story. By this article, it is clear that this paper knows how to identify a good story where others might not see one -- a valuable and hard-to-learn skill.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Dan Bolles, **Seven Days, Burlington, VT**

An awe-inspiring subject for sure. I enjoyed how Bolles went with the eccentricity of the profiled artist (and his home and studio). Storytelling devices he used created a smart and engaging piece packed with character and detail.

Second Place: Bill Eville,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

I wondered whether Silberling had been written about before, given his stature, but this profile felt fresh and left me feeling as if I got a true glimpse into both a filmmaker and a human being.

Third Place: Ann Wood,

Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

The story packs a lot about a tough subject into a short space, and leaves knowing that Heather Litteer as a person, not symbol, as well as offered insight into issues that are so current right now.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Jill Harmacinski,

Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Sensitively written story, with good photos and sidebar. Really interesting read about a tough and timely subject.

Second Place: Dustin Luca, **The Salem News, Salem, MA**

Really in-depth and interesting coverage of a timely, hot-button issue. Good photos and a great follow-up.

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

Lively story about an interesting performance. Accompanied by great photos.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

In two lengthy and interesting stories, plus a couple of sidebars, she really delves into the past and plans for the future of the Cape Playhouse. Really thorough. Clearly she cares about the subject and has brought it to life. Good photos helped!

Second Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Shows lots of compassion and beautifully presents the story behind the documentary. Really well done.

Third Place: Leeanne Griffin,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Great layout, funny and well researched. The graphics are great and a reader can really get a great idea about the kooky selections of pizza.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Eliza Rosenberry,

Somerville Journal, Somerville, MA

This journalist deftly blends her reporting skills with a compassionate eye to explain the struggles of a few tenants in Somerville. She takes a careful, close look at the rent squeeze, while using government records to provide rich detail and authenticity. Most of the all, the story describes the complexity without ever letting us forget humanity.

Second Place: Dan MacAlpine, **Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

This reporter made a meaningful investment of time into a story that dominates his community's attention. His well-researched stories are rich with anecdotes, data, and details. He's sought a wide range of voices to describe different experiences. This example of civic journalism gives the community a clear sense of what's at stake and what might be done to make a difference.

Third Place: Leslie H. Dixon,

Advertiser-Democrat, Norway, ME

Dixon follows the route of casino money with a writing style that clearly communicates to readers that this journalist will never settle for easy answers when she can dig for the truth.

Third Place: Leslie H. Dixon,

Advertiser-Democrat, Norway, ME

A careful review of bankruptcy documents show the true costs of a failed modular home manufacturer, and through this story-telling, she demonstrates her skill for digging out evidence from public records and holding those in power accountable.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Jessica Bartlett,

Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

This detailed and in-depth reporting works both as watchdog and explanatory journalism, describing how the medical care system works and naming the people who benefit. Most of all, Bartlett uses available data to describe the shape of a medical industry that many readers didn't know existed.

Second Place: Eli Sherman,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Far from dry or abstract reporting, Sherman engages us right away by showing the human cost. This story dares to take the long view, something that often is difficult for journalists to do, and also goes deep by illustrating the complexities. The thoughtful, well-sourced story also provides a public service by making clear that all is not lost: that state leaders could make a difference.

Third Place: Greg Ryan, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

This story skillfully frames a problem that affects both individuals and the more broad economy. It's not an easy problem to define or describe but this journalist delivers a solid piece of explanatory journalism. He makes it all work with telling anecdotes, a smart balance of facts and figures, and a conversational writing voice that guides us through the story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Kyle Stucker, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH

Kyle Stucker recaps the history of the Rochester Fair -- a beloved event. Article after article illustrates Stucker's doggedness in following this story, and it seems like a sure bet that there are more to come. As Stucker wrote in the submission comments: "The matter is far from resolved, and there are still allegations we are working to prove."

Second Place: Andy Tomolonis and Staff,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

The Whaling City's commitment to transform into an offshore wind power production site is thoroughly examined in this package. There's lots of money involved, but the writers have skillfully interlocked those pieces. Challenges and obstacles are dissected, while a timeline is featured to let readers review the entire process. Overall, this is a reader-friendly package, well-researched and well-written.

Third Place: Kathryn Skelton, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Kathryn Skelton wades into the issues in "Bottling Maine", giving readers a deep-dive into the complex process. Massive information is organized, readable and easy to comprehend. It's balanced and fair reporting and writing.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Jennifer Bogdan and Tom Mooney,

The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

"Follow the money" and "talk to real people" echo throughout the halls of journalism reporting classes -- the Pot & Profit project kept those two tenets in mind throughout their multi-article investigation. There are breakout boxes, graphics jammed with information. It's a truly remarkable and comprehensive package, with solid reporting, writing and organization. Kudos to the the designers as well for a stunning project.

Second Place: Kenneth R. Gosselin,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Gosselin masterfully examines an important issue for Hartford's economy. It's a must read for residents and those who want to see the once-mighty city survive.

Third Place: Sean F. Driscoll, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Driscoll explains a new department at WHOI which helps ideas become viable products. The hows and whys are clearly explained. He talks to real folks about how it came about and how it's worked so far.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Joanna Tzouvelis,

Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA

Joanna Tzouvelis's two-part series provides readers with an eminently readable, fair, and comprehensive description of a municipal board decision that could have gone either way. It's a microcosm of how local governance works, and a testament to the impact, for better or worse, of community activism.

Second Place: Rebecca Humphrey,

The Landmark, Holden, MA

The Landmark's front page and jump were devoted to Rebecca Humphrey's exceptionally well-written account synthesizing the closing arguments of both sides. It's a piece you can't put down, and can't forget.

Third Place: Max Sullivan,

The Hampton Union, Hampton, NH

Sullivan engaged in shoe-leather reporting, interviewing the victim's girlfriend and neighbors. What was a portrait of a man beset by mental health and substance abuse issues who had fallen off the wagon and gone in search of drugs and liquor.

Honorable Mention: Amanda Collins Bernier and Patricia Roy The Landmark, Holden, MA

The writers were all over the story of a woman murdered while on a weekend visit to her parents. A series of articles about the murder and investigation culminated in a particularly well-written piece headlined, "We got him."

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Mark Davis' masterly article, with sidebars and graphics, brings home the opioid crisis by profiling 14 victims. The well-constructed summary article is accompanied by graphics illustrating the age, education level, and geographic locations of the victims.

Second Place: John Kennedy,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

John H. Kennedy shows how to master the subject matter, writing clearly and succinctly, and interweaving legal analysis with the real-world implications of the decision. Legal reporting at its best.

Third Place: Peter Sutters,

The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

This straightforward news account is a model of its genre: it's clear, it's comprehensive, and it answers all of your questions. It proves that there's no substitute for careful, factual reporting coupled with fine, concise writing.

*Honorable Mention: Tom Matthews,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*

The Worcester Police Department's Unresolved Homicide Unit is investigating 67 murder cases that have gone unsolved for years. Tom Matthews capably describes how the unit operates, but the piece's greatest strength lies in his profiles of five murder cases that date back to as long ago as 1987.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Christopher Williams, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

This is compelling journalism, written with clarity and detail, that brought results. The work illustrates the societal value of a probing, fact-based press. To paraphrase Dostoyevsky and Churchill: 'show us your prisons and we'll know who you are.'

*Second Place: Alyssa Dandrea,
Concord Monitor, Concord, NH*

Dandrea sheds fresh light on an overlooked aspect of crime and incarceration: the societal cost and personal impact of the families of convicts. The excellent story-telling in this four-part series is built on a foundation of exhaustive reporting. Where the narrative leaves off, the data pick up. This is a major work of journalism.

*Third Place: Curt Brown,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*

Brown provides riveting reportage of the trial of a woman ultimately convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the suicide of her teenage boyfriend. The trial stories were clear and concise. The community reaction to the verdict was a smart and important component of the deadline coverage.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

*First Place: Patrick Ronan and Sean Cotter,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA*

Ronan and Cotter dig deep into the bizarre world of a Quincy con artist to tell a multi-part story that is thoroughly reported and well-told.

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

Simpson combines an easy-going writing style with an artful eye for detail to write this stirring story.

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

The topic here is of grave importance, yet it is the reporter's skillful use of detail and language that sets this work apart. Mr. Petrishen takes the material to another level to provide a succinct examination of public policy.

EDUCATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

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

This is a delightful, fact-filled story about what it's like to be the only teacher on a remote Maine island with only three students. A good read!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

*First Place: Heather Hamacek,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*

This story is a great read! It's clearly and interestingly written. Worthy of first place.

*First Place: Connie Berry,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*

The reporter put together a highly readable story about both the problems and the solutions of a group of parents and their autistic children on the island. This reporting is worthy of first place!

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

Every adult worries about teen drivers with their ever-present cell phones, especially parents of the teens. A local school teamed up with an insurance company and its technology to show teens how even glancing at a cellphone could lead to a disaster. An

Third Place: Alex Acquisto, The Forecaster, Falmouth, ME

It was a pleasure to read about these students who are actively working to fix a problem. A very good piece.

*Third Place: Corlyn Voorhees,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*

Readers with children will love this story: How all the schools in the circulation's area rate. A good read.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

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

A good idea for a story, and then a good, well-written story that discussed a topic that many adults were wondering about: how did schools handle the discussion about the presidential campaign?

Second Place: Zoe Matthews, Kiera Blessing, Lisa Kashinsky, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

This article speaks to how students in area schools are using social media -- sometimes in negative ways -- and what one school is doing to regulate this use when it impacts their students. Useful and readable graphics accompany their stories.

*Third Place: Jennette Barnes, Auditi Guha, Sandy Quadros Bowles,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*

This series follows the turnaround of a local elementary school. Good reporting on a topic of interest to the parents whose children attend the school.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Vanessa De la Torre, Matthew Kauffman, Kathleen Megan, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Racial quotas in schools: who knew? But the current reporter dug into this issue and race issues in the city's schools and came up with some eye-opening stories. First-class journalism!

Second Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Highly readable -- and a great idea. A special section looks at outstanding high school "Rising Stars" on the Cape & Islands. Uplifting and fun to learn about there are such talented and hard-working teens out there!

*Third Place: Cynthia McCormick,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*

What kid wouldn't like his or her teacher to eliminate homework? Some Cape schools are doing this for first and second graders. Nice and informative story.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Dan MacAlpine, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

Clearly written and well-reported tale of local people working to convert an environmental problem into a culinary and economic opportunity. Interesting.

Second Place: Renee Meyer,

The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Renee Meyer demonstrates an exciting way of reporting issues with municipal events. This story both synthesizes an important topic and shares some specific ideas in play. This sort of reporting looks simple but it is not. This journalist takes reporting and writing seriously.

Third Place: Jeannette Hinkle,

Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA

This is one of those stories that takes readers someplace interesting where few can go: beneath the surface of the waters off Massachusetts' North Shore. A lovely, well organized and well told glimpse of that environment.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Bill Shaner, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

A fascinating story that does good work on giving a clear voice to both sides in this dispute as well as to a stream of relevant facts that readers can use to help them make up their own minds on this topic.

Second Place: Barry Stringfellow,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

We all appreciate a story that shows as well as tells the scale of an environmental problem. Stringfellow wrote us a story that is well-reported, well-told, and potentially very important to local readers.

Third Place: Mary MacDonald,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Well-reported look at a climate-change related threat to a historic neighborhood. The piece makes clear that solutions to a very difficult problem are not at all clear. It also introduces to readers to some of the people and organizations trying to figure it out.

Honorable Mention: Pem McNerney,

Harbor News, Clinton, Westbrook,, CT

Richly reported and well written story about an undeveloped, publicly owned island on the auction block. Very interesting strategies by artists and activists to keep it in public hands.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Kathryn Skelton, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Excellent! A deep dive into an important topic for local readers. Well written and organized. Great service to provide so much data to help readers make up their own minds on this issue.

Second Place: Jennette Barnes,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

This package is a good service to readers. Great explanations for the new technology, and clear reporting on the added financial costs as well as the potential environmental gains.

Third Place: Michael Bonner,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

This is an interesting issue brought to life with on-the-ground (and in the water) reporting. The story not only describes a problem, it also explains why it is not easy to fix, and explores whether government agencies are able to do their job enforcing existing rules.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

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

Very nicely reported, written and illustrated stories about intensifying noise pollution in some communities. Readers very likely appreciated the rich data included as well as the explanations of the technical and political challenges to addressing this question. Super work.

Second Place: Christine Legere,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Very nice. Readers need newspapers to keep a close eye on a nuclear power plant designated as one of the "worse performing". Legere and the Cape Cod Times did just that.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Specialty Publications

First Place: Eli Sherman,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

It is an ultimate challenge for a journalist to write about their own industry, and this author did a top-flight job with thorough and informative content that likely enlightened most non-industry involved readers, and hopefully inspired readers to appreciate their local paper - and subscribe!

Second Place: Cassius Shuman,

Block Island Summer Times, The, Block Island, RI

This was an engaging and educational piece. The writer presented the story with a perfect balance that I trust informed his readers on this historical and controversial project.

Third Place: Renee Meyers,

Block Island Summer Times, The, Block Island, RI

This writer did a great job illustrating unintended consequences and environmental concerns involving invasive plant and flower species. There is no doubt that its readability helped inspire consumers to learn about and adopt more appropriate selections for their homes and gardens.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Michaela Halnon,

The Colchester Sun, Colchester, VT

Well-written in-depth account of complicated and important local issue

Second Place: Rich Harbert,

Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

The second best of the entries- nice recap of a tragic life, BUT it's a feature, not a news story.

Third Place: Alice Coyle and Caitlyn Kelleher, Gerry Tuoti,

Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Excellent example of localizing a national story. Dogged reporting.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Impressive reporting and follow-up stories on an important issue. Commendable pursuit of all aspects of the issues.

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

Well-written analysis of problems with a local institution - good digging for varied reactions.

Third Place: Gaen Murphree,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Nice treatment of breaking news story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Jonathan Phelps,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Persistent local news reporting that keeps chipping day after day at an issue that has a strong base of both supporters and critics, which could make it difficult to separate emotional responses and walk a line of fact-based reporting. Consistently, the reporter's stories stick to public records to unravel allegations about conditions at the kennel as well as the organization's finances. Excellent public service reporting.

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

This well-conceived series goes deep to tell moving stories of immigrants' paths to a new life in the United States. The immigrants' stories are well-written, moving, complex, and ought to challenge every reader's thinking on immigration. This excellent series offers both public service and careful explanatory journalism.

Third Place: Alyssa Dandrea, Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

This series powerfully describes the trauma and journeys of three women confronting sexual assault and working to rebuild their lives. Each story is well-constructed, bluntly recounting the attacks on the women and honestly portraying the sometimes-long road to healing. The stories are supported by added reporting on crime statistics, plus resources for others who were assaulted and may not have gotten assistance they needed. Compelling local reading on an issue that's getting broad attention nationally.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Christine Dempsey,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Bravo! This reporter's writing talent instantly grips the reader and holds taught attention down to the closing sentence. She did a spectacular job drawing the story from the subject and constructing it in a way that was compelling to read with a natural feeling style and pacing.

Second Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The staff of the CCT grabbed hold of this story from the onset, and appropriately carried it through to its sad ending, leaving no stone unturned, or element of the story untold, all the while handling it with measured and appropriate sensitivity without sacrificing or downplaying important facts, particularly the release of the cause of the crash.

Third Place: Greg Saulman, The Republican, Springfield, MA

The reporter developed an important story that provided critical and potentially life-saving information with the correct balance between the technical and human interest aspects. Well-written and ultimately thorough but scripted in a way as not to lose the

reader in the deeper technical aspects of the information he sought to present.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Nashoba Valley Voice, Dracut/Methuen, MA

Residents rely on the local newspaper to be their eyes and ears in the halls of government. The Nashoba Valley Voice provided a stellar example of fulfilling that role in its coverage of the Shirley town government. The stories dug deep and provided multiple viewpoints, giving members of the community vital, evenhanded information over a sustained period of time.

Second Place: Dick Broom,

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Dick Broom stands up for the "little guy" in this story that focuses on one man's battle but hints at the dysfunction in government.

Third Place: Frank Mand,

Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

A good example of explanatory journalism in detailing efforts to remove a dam and revitalize a community.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Greg Ryan, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

In an outstanding example of investigative journalism, Greg Ryan analyzed pronouncements and quantified how many tax-break recipients failed to produce the jobs they had promised. Ryan not only named names but also showed how the system is broken.

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

Paul Heintz does a solid job and a fine public service exploring the nuances of Gov. Phil Scott's pledge to make Vermont more "affordable." In this insightful example of explanatory journalism, Heintz raises an important question – affordable for whom? – and discusses the factors that affect affordability. Well done.

Third Place: Eli Sherman,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Eli Sherman explains the looming problems in Rhode Island's state and municipal pension system in a way readers can easily understand. Sherman writes about the issue with authority – he doesn't dumb it down. But he knows how to pace his writing, to slow down as he approaches especially difficult terrain, to translate terms, to use analogies and illuminating details, and to channel the observations of a bevy of experts. Sherman lays out his information in a logical and fastidious manner. And for readers, it all adds up.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Allie Morris, Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

With searing details pieced together from interviews and public records, Morris chronicled the tragic life and death of a 3-year-old girl by combining her compelling anecdotal reporting with outstanding analysis. This four-part series gave voice to these silenced victims and examined the staffing shortage and other problems within the agency.

Second Place: Zoe Mathews,

Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Zoe Mathews' dogged reporting ensured that the case of a police officer charged with breaking the law would not be swept under the rug. Mathews used public records and extensive interviews, and

besides following the criminal case, Mathews showed how much the incident cost taxpayers.

Third Place: Cody Shepard, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Cody Shepard demonstrated a sharp eye for a story and an evenhanded approach to exploring a controversial issue in his coverage of an Easton town official's Facebook postings involving Muslims. Shepard clearly laid out why Michael Goodman's postings were newsworthy. Shepard gave a voice to both sides of the issue, explaining why one would either defend or criticize Goodman's actions.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Jon Lender, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Watchdog journalist Jon Lender sank his teeth into this story. Those columns led to the superintendent's resignation and a state review of contracting rules.

Second Place: Paul Hughes, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Writing with authority and grace, Hughes cuts through the political infighting and budgetary maneuvering to show how a budget crisis would affect residents. Hughes and designer Jim Flynn produced a State Budget 101 primer with easily digestible explainers – the kind of reporting that national correspondents would be wise to emulate.

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

Dave Solomon pushed for answers when a woman committed suicide after being released by the state psychiatric hospital. His stories documented staffing problems at the facility, and using New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, Solomon pried loose important information about the case.

HEALTH REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Douglas Farmer, The Journal Register, Palmer, MA

This 4-part series examines Alzheimer's disease and the toll it takes on families, deftly weaving in the science behind the disease and the frustrating lack of prescription treatment options. The series is valuable because it includes "news-you-can-use" tips on symptoms, methods to help patients and their families, along with telephone numbers of local and national resources.

Second Place: Robert Fucci, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA

This story on addictive prescription medicine includes several voices, who caution that most users would do better to quit with assistance from detox professionals. A "facts and figures" box provides needed local and national context about the number of opioid deaths in the U.S. and locally.

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

This reporter highlights an under recognized health problem: hoarding. The piece and sidebar outline the nature of the condition and how other mental health issues, such as depression, often occur along with it. It includes local and national statistics on hoarding, as well as local resources for help.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: John Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Heroin and other opioids are fueling a crisis nationwide and this three-part series examines its effect on Nantucket in a clear and compelling manner. In all three parts, the reporter clearly went to great lengths to find real people to illustrate the struggle with addiction and the grief it causes users and their families.

Second Place: Alicia Freese, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

A clear and compelling look at how a nurse shortage affects families and patients. It looks at the many reasons behind the shortage, with pay being only one of them, and outlines the efforts state agencies are taking to try to respond. But, as with so many things in health care, there are no easy answers, as the piece nicely observes.

Third Place: Molly Walsh, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

This well researched piece includes details of Bolt's life and death, mixed nicely with the long running debate over whether the well-intentioned move away from institution-based care in the USA has nonetheless led to inadequate resources for mental health care in the community.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Hadley Barndollar, Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH

This entry has a fresh and most surprising subject: how the opioid epidemic is increasing the number of organ donations. The writer also found an incredibly moving story to serve as her central anecdote: a woman with a fatal disease, who outlasted her fiancé, and will benefit from the shorter wait time for organ donations.

Second Place: Allie Morris and Ella Nilsen, Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

This is an important topic, very solidly reported and clearly written. The backlog of behavioral health care at the state psychiatric hospital leaves patients waiting out their mental health crises in hospital emergency rooms, where they are essentially imprisoned with no real care. These two writers presented the story from several different angles, including the human cost, showing readers why they should care.

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

Elaine Ezerins delved deeply into the lives of people who have recovered from drug addiction, offering hope and concrete role models for others. She takes readers through intimate details of her subjects' lives, providing a realistic portrayal of how difficult it is to recover from addiction, but also that it is possible.

Third Place: Meghan Foley, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Meghan Foley wrote a strong package of stories calling attention to the lack of coverage for emergency calls across the region. The series was comprehensive, including the straight facts, a piece about the history of volunteer emergency service in the area, and the strategies various departments have tried to fix the problem.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Jody Feinberg, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

This was a well-written, touching tribute to a teenager who struggled with ulcerative colitis. Readers can understand what patient Margo Mallett endured, without making her into a victim.

Feinberg had some nice writing flourishes and evocative details that indicate solid reporting.

**Second Place: Gretchen Grosky,
New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

This was an ambitious reporting project on a topic of interest throughout the state: the aging of the population. Grosky considered the subject from many different perspectives to make for a great piece.

**Third Place: Cynthia McCormick,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

McCormick solidly reports her health pieces and writes in a compelling, compassionate way. She provides readers an insightful look at a doctor who is dying and fighting for "right to die" legislation at the same time. Kligler comes across as a three-dimensional, interesting character, and we understand why he is doing what he's doing.

**Honorable Mention: K.C. Myers,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

The piece was well written, and the reporter clearly connected with and listened well to the family.

HISTORY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

**First Place: Anne O'Connor,
Nashoba Valley Voice, Dracut/Methuen/, MA**

Interesting and well-researched account of a trove of WWI letters - tied nicely to local history.

**Second Place: Robert Barboza,
The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA**

This article about marine corps offers not only local history, but national history context as well.

**Third Place: Liz Graves,
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**
Important and valuable story.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

**First Place: Emily Gowdey-Backus,
Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

Thoughtful and well-written analysis of local Rhode Island historical societies and the struggles they have regarding funding and support.

Second Place: Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Timely examination of the free press and its importance in combating authoritarianism.

Third Place: Molly Walsh, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
A well-crafted story on re-examining the history of a local "hero".

**Honorable Mention: Joshua Lyford,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
Nicely done.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: John Ruddy, The Day, New London, CT
Beautifully written account of the business of boats and boat-building on the eve of WWI.

**Second Place: Steve Urbon,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Well-researched and well-written examination of JFK's many important connections to Connecticut.

**Third Place: Jennifer Huberdeau,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**

Nicely crafted and researched history of the many interesting events in the long history of Shadow Brook.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

**First Place: Michael DeGirolamo Jr.,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Informative and well-researched account of Waterbury's mdeep connections to WWI.

**Second Place: Brigitte Ruthman,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Ruthonorable Mentionan carefully ties Connecticut's history to the local suffering during WWII.

Third Place: Geoff Spillane, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Really enjoyable and nicely written series on JFK and Cape Cod.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Specialty Publications

**First Place: Alicia B. Smith,
West Hartford Life, West Hartford, CT**

The lede grabs your and the narrative keeps the reader engaged until the end. This piece is engaging to the point where I wanted to go back and read it again! Great descriptions and continuity, turning what could have been a routine personality feature into a compelling human interest story. Worth reading twice!

**Second Place: Geoff Currier, MV Arts & Ideas,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

I loved how the reporter balanced the backstory and subjects' own accounts of their own experiences and presented it through the eyes of someone who appears to truly savor their creative works. The writing transports and gives the reader a perspective of the Vineyard they could envision through the eyes, experiences and artwork of these illustrators.

**Second Place: Tommy Gardner,
Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT**

Tight, engaging writing that would be as interesting for a reader who knows the subjects well, as it would be for a reader who may not even like skiing. A spectacular retrospect that packs decades of information into an relatively brief, informative and well-woven narrative.

**Third Place: Tracie Seed,
Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**

The writer takes what could easily be a throw off story on dietary allergies and creates a highly engaging and more importantly - educational feature - that is elevated and personalized with their own illustrations.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Erin Place, Advertiser-Democrat, Norway, ME
This writer deserves national exposure on this story. Well reported and well written. It gives readers an unexpected and important view

of what one of their elected officials is doing behind the scenes to bridge that chasm that divides governance these da

*Second Place: Rich Harbert,
Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA*

Interesting look at a women's efforts to uncover the past and present fall-out from the Vietnam War.

*Third Place: Cassius Shuman,
The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI*

Nice and timely job tracking down an unsung local hero in the much-publicized Hudson River crash, just in time to give readers the story as the movie hits theaters.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Sasha Goldstein, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Well-told profiles of the interesting characters whose lifelines made the region what it is. Good job pulling back the curtain and capturing these histories before they are gone.

*Second Place: Janice Harvey,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*

Important and heart-wrenching journey that put readers inside of a mother's pain and passion.

Third Place: Ken Picard, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Nice work putting readers into the struggle faced by a resident writer who faced an unimaginable imprisonment under unimaginable circumstances.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

*First Place: Allie Morris and Elodie Reed,
Concord Monitor, Concord, NH*

A strong five-day package from start to finish. Well-written and well-sourced, with a depth that went beyond the main "characters" of each day. Each day served to develop a different aspect of the topic, accompanied by meaningful sidebars. Never a feeling of "Oh, more of this again ..." even when reading the last day's story.

*Second Place: Lindsey Hollenbaugh,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*

The writer performed a nifty trick in bringing an inanimate object to "life" in her look at this particular Massachusetts institution. The story featured a nice mix of official and "real people" sources. Very solid reporting of details, woven with selective, restrained but effective quotes. The story also covered a lot of ground in terms of varied communities' experiences with the box without ever becoming jarring. Also liked the "Where votes are still counted by hand" sidebar, which placed everything in proper context even if your own community was not mentioned in main story.

*Third Place: Kevin P. O'Connor,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA*

The Herald News is to be applauded for its commitment to holding local officials accountable for homelessness in asking, "How was a problem recognized and then became worse?". O'Connor's installment takes a solid, unsentimental look at the issue from many sides. Good real-life anecdotes and historical data. One thing that could have perhaps made this report even better would be a "local resources listing" would round out the offering?

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Kathleen Megan,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

This particular feature revealed so much more understanding about the intertwined lives of conjoined twins Carmen and Lupita, and the time taken to report on this invested proved well worth the effort. In addition to capturing their distinct personalities, the writer provided a solid medical appreciation for the condition without veering into jargon and nicely framed the dramatic question of potential surgery. Solid reporting and engaging writing from start to finish.

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

O'Shaughnessy deserves credit for "sleuthing out" enough individuals to develop this into a series that provided a distinct local feel for the community. Each installment was characterized by energetic but descriptive writing that brought the distinct subjects to life, yet managed to weave in just enough stats to put their unique and vanishing trades into perspective. This series offered an appreciation of a near-lost art and to appreciate something they had likely never before experienced.

Third Place: Mike Plaisance, The Republican, Springfield, MA

Plaisance's deadline writing very effectively captured the "humanity" of returning the remains of Cpl. Jules Hauterman Jr. to the place the Korean War veteran had called home. Tight writing, great detail, selective but effective quotes throughout. A treat to read.

*Honorable Mention: Madeleine List,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*

Well reported with a wide range of "real-life" sources.

INVESTIGATIVE/ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Mary McDonald and Eli Sherman,
Providence Business News, Providence, RI*

This two-part, well-researched series takes a look at how Providence's deteriorating infrastructure will have an impact on the city's poorer neighborhoods, and points out that it is not only a people issue, but a political and state administration issue. The series explains that in a clear, interesting and compelling manner.

*Second Place: Walter Bird Jr.,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*

What a great topic and a great read! Investigation and research leads to an ominous Top 10 list of the worst rental properties in Worcester, complete with naming the landlords and factoids listing reported violations and even police visits. It shines a light on a sorry problem many cities have, and it's in sharp focus.

Third Place: Bob Curley, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

The effect of Airbnb on a community and its residents, especially in a seaside resort, is featured in this special report on what's hot and hip today in vacation rentals. The pros and cons get a good airing in this well-balanced piece.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers

*First Place: Bram Berkowitz,
Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA*

A strong piece that illustrates the value of digging to unearth the story behind the story.

*Second Place: Hadley Barndollar,
The Exeter News-Letter, Exeter, NH*
A terrific and in-depth job reporting an important story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

*First Place: Amanda Drane,
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA*
An in-depth, meticulously documented investigative series that examines an important and interesting topic. Amanda Drane's reporting sheds new light on this underground economy.

*Second Place: Christopher Williams,
Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME*
A compelling account of outrageous mistreatment that had immediate impact. Superbly written with disturbing detail.

Third Place: Todd Feathers, The Sun, Lowell, MA
An important investigation, especially given the current crisis. Well-documented and written in a compelling style.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

*First Place: Tom Mooney and Jennifer Bogdan,
The Providence Journal, Providence, RI*
A comprehensive examination of a troubled system that's impacting the lives of thousands of Rhode Island children. A superb example of holding the powerful accountable.

*Second Place: Stephanie Barry and Buffy Spencer,
The Republican, Springfield, MA*
A terrific example of in-depth coverage of an important topic. The digging and persistence in this case truly made a difference.

*Third Place: Jonathan Shugarts,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT*
A superb example of investigative reporting that emerges from paying attention to the world around you. Excellent digging and data analysis!

*Honorable Mention: Christine Legere and Linda Corcoran,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
A major piece of in-depth reporting on a crucial issue.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Melissa Russell, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA
Adds enterprise stories and candid coverage of controversies to a solid package of the staples of campaign coverage. Letters to the editor, endorsement editorials and candidate commentary pieces on the opinion pages add depth to the coverage.

Second Place: The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA
Comprehensive and informative stock coverage provides readers with a wealth of information, especially in the immediate run-up to the election: Candidate announcements, detailed candidate profiles, plus candidate answers to a question of the week and a campaign notes section. Excellent chart of election results.

*Third Place: Peter Sutters, Joshua Balling and John Stanton,
The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA*
A welcome spark in the writing in what often can be routine campaign and election-result wrap-ups. An easy-to-read election results chart. Voiced its endorsements in multiple races and on the election results.

Daily Newspapers

*First Place: Jim Haddadin and Jonathan Dame,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA*
Voluminous coverage of Framingham's historic charter vote. The coverage was not only deep, but broad. It presented the nuts and bolts of this important vote, and ranged far and wide too to examine relating issues. Letters to the editor and strong pro-charter change editorials dotted the paper's opinion pages during the campaign.

Second Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
A classic and in-depth presentation of candidate profiles for all major campaigns affecting Times readers, providing helpful biographical details and candidates' answers to a common question.

*Third Place: Sandy Quadros Bowles,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Excellent packages informing voters about the Massachusetts referendum questions, including the local impact of the prospective outcomes. The packages featured easy-to-follow formatting of what voters were being asked to decide, and who favored and opposed the measures.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Kate Feiffer, MV Arts & Ideas,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
Profiling someone who's been gone for four and a half decades presents unique challenges, but the writer has pieced together a compelling mosaic here. We would read the book and watch the movie (nudge, nudge ...)

*Second Place: Lisa Lynn,
VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT*
Engaging writing; surprising detail; illuminating quotes. This is a truly textured portrait not only of a fascinating life but of breathless brushes with death.

*Third Place: Bill Doyle - Worcester Living,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
It's difficult not to get swept up in the redemptive aspects of this remarkable profile. A very writerly piece... Well done!

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Andrew Martin, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Martin writes a careful and engaging profile of a man who turned a small excavating company into a business empire in northern Vermont. Rich with quotes from Manosh, Martin avoids the tendency to write about the subject and instead let's Manosh tell his own story in a nicely paced, well-structured narrative. Readers want to hear the people we write about, and Martin does just that, along with sharing the voices of business and civic leaders — including Vermont's governor — and his family. Good photos and a nice design complement the piece.

*Second Place: Mary Reines,
Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA*
The lead art teacher at Marblehead High is retiring, but Reines goes beyond the standard retirement story. The opening anecdote from an art classroom exercise is long, but engaging enough to keep the reader interested. In the end, it tells a lot about the Pascale Queval, as well as the time Reines put in observing and talking with Queval

to write a strong personality profile. Reines brings in former students and other teachers to compete the story.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

In profiling the now-retired judge, turned college instructor, Davis recounts the case in detail -- primarily, however, this is a story of a careful, thoughtful jurist, a man who lived his life with integrity inside and outside of the courtroom, and who never regretted his decision. Davis draws on multiple sources to recount the case and describe Chapman. He talks to key players, including the defendant, and Cashman's own voice provides the focus for the narrative. Details are rich and the pacing is excellent. It is a solid, engaging and informative read.

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

A rich profile of Tim Ashe, president pro tem of the Vermont State Senate and his 18-year rise in state politics. Heintz does the legwork to report deeply on Ashe's background and marshals a lot of state political and civi leaders to talk about Ashe. For a smaller sized piece, It is handled and presented well. In the end, the reader comes away from the article knowing a great deal about Tim Ashe, his politics, and where he stands.

Third Place: Mollie Doyle,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

A nice read on the clerk of courts on Martha's Vineyard, how he fell in love with the island in 1968 while working a summer job to pay for law school and then returned after passing the bar exam. He's a story teller, and Doyle let's his voice and his character come through.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

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

The piece is rich with details of Efal's story, his search, inner struggles and fulfillment in his new life. Davis is the narrator, but he uses Efal's own words to weave the tale.

Second Place: Meghan Foley, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

It could have been a routine artist-overcomes-adversity feature, but Foley takes it much deeper. She lets Crowder, a much beloved art teacher, her husband and friends tell the story. Foley uses a lot of dialog and detail to paint her own portrait of her subject.

Third Place: Terry Date, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

The work and passion of "Mama Julia" Polanco and her food pantry in Lawrence are brought to life in this piece. The founder of Food for the World is a force to be reckoned with. Date tells the story in such a way that makes clear Polanco's background and vision.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: G. Wayne Miller,

The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

This three-part series about Michael Flynn's formative years is deeply reported and told by a skilled writer who knows how to construct a story. The resulting narrative adds context to the public image of President Trump's former national security adviser.

Second Place: Samantha Allen,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Reporter Samantha Allen describes EJ Silverberg's journey from androgynous lesbian to transgender man with sensitivity and respect. She includes insights from his girlfriend, grandparents, and

his surgeon, and widens her lens with information about the transgender civil rights movement. A solid job on an important subject.

Third Place: Shawne K. Wickham,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

After author Beatrice Trum Hunter died at 98, reporter Shawne K. Wickham interviewed the writer's friends and neighbors for a profile of the woman who wrote the first-ever natural foods cookbook. Wickham's piece goes beyond platitudes to give a textured, detailed remembrance of a remarkable life.

OBITUARIES

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Anne Kozak,

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

The writing an obituary of a nationally recognized individual is not the easiest task for the journalist of a local publication. Anne Kozak did an exceptional job in that regard on behalf of one of Mount Desert's summer residents, David Rockefeller. The obituary was an excellent blend of local information and photos, as well as an accumulation of tributes from local and national personalities.

Second Place: Phil Devitt,

The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA

Dr. Irving Fradkin's obituary told the story of a community leader's commitment to education. He was the founder of Dollars for Scholars, which helped to make college more affordable for Fall River's teens -- and today, it is a national program, Scholarship America, which has provide \$3.5 billion to more than 2 million students.

Third Place: Caleigh Cross, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

A town character, Peter Smith, had a lengthy career. The reporter described him well with details such as that he became the "guy you called" when in need and always had time for a conversation as well as service as a volunteer firemen.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: David Roza,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

The photo accompanying Roza's life history of Bucksport's native musician draws the reader to a well written article on the legacy of a "consummate music maker". The laugh on Don Blodgett's face exemplified the love he had for music and was an indication of the efforts he expended for a community which he clearly loved and which certainly loved him back.

Second Place: Megan Cerullo,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Creativity, out of the box thinking, an eye for something different are all attributes for an aspiring journalist. Megan certainly showed all those attributes in her obituary of Raisin, the goat, who, according to the obituary was both a local and national celebrity. Featured on David Letterman's "Late Show", Raisin died of pneumonia, but left quite a legacy in Chilmark.

Third Place: Ann Wood,

Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

Ann Wood's well researched obituary of Eddie Ritter was certainly enhanced by several well composed photos of Provincetown's last dory fisherman. Ritter's recognition was well deserved given the

fisherman's accomplishments after moving to the cape following his tour of duty during the Vietnam War.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

**First Place: Chad Garner,
Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Mike Austin's obituary began with his description as "a leader, mentor and a coach" who had "a heart of gold." It went on to tell the story of a person who certainly left his mark, not only on those he coached, but the community as well.

**Second Place: Kevin P. O'Connor,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

The Fall River, MA, Fire Department was "blessed" to have a chaplain who was considered by the chief to be "an active department member", who as a youth wanted to be either a firefighter or a priest. In a sense, he was able to do both, and his obituary was able to tell a warm and rich life story.

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

The obituary of a New England city manager is full of the recognitions of a man who spent nearly 20 years overseeing the municipal life of St. Albans. The author was able to not only record many of the achievements of William Cioffi, but also paint a warm picture of his character and family life as well.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

**First Place: Nicholas Rondinone,
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT**

Commemorating the life of a Granby resident who not only followed in his father's footsteps in raising oxen, but shared his knowledge and experiences with the greater community. The obituary detailed the life and community spirit of a 55-year-old farmer killed in a pedestrian accident.

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

The author was able to tell the interesting life story of a Worcester businessman and community leader in a compelling article which left no doubt in the readers' minds of his contributions, and described him as one who had never lost his charismatic touches in his business life and contributions to his community.

**Third Place: George Graham,
The Republican, Springfield, MA**

This article captured that respect in both words and photos. The police sergeant in this case was remembered not only for his police work, but for his commitment to his community.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

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

A well-written and enlightening report that heightens readers' awareness of the causes and the efforts to resolve a significant and critical issue connecting to an immigrant community. The racial aspect is handled sensitively with the focus on the background culture of these New Americans. The story brings together relevant voices and insights. At times, the writing slips into jargon, and a slight bit of editing for style and length would help. Photos are a strong asset to the presentation and narrative.

**Second Place: John Stanton,
The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

This story displays awareness of the human side of this subject with sensitivity. There is a lot of information and insights as to what immigrants face and who they are both from their perspective and that of the community they are entering. Enhanced by attractive, effective photos. A bit long, but read well! Minor point: The lead is a bit redundant or full, but it does get the point across.

Third Place: Alex Acquisto, The Forecaster, Falmouth, ME

This article focuses on a timely subject: how to make local government reflect the diversity of its constituents. The story lays out different sides of the issue, while subtly and sensitively revealing an established resistance to inclusiveness. The racial identity of key person of the story might be stated a bit higher in the text although the above-the-fold photo helps.

Daily Newspapers

**First Place: Vanessa De la Torre,
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT**

A compelling and incisive narrative about an ongoing and relevant racial issue: the disparity in educational opportunities experienced by urban minority groups in Connecticut. The story is comprehensive and sensitive to the human side of this controversy as well as the problems and challenges encountered in attempting to achieve a workable solution. Enhanced by effective photos and graphics. At some points, the writing could seem a tad overwritten -- but overall, a minor issue. The metaphors are on target in her writing as well.

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

A well-written, highly readable series about the diversity of the immigrant experience in southeastern Connecticut. The underlying ethnic and racial issues are handled sensitively by focusing the individual stories of members of different ethnic groups. The narrative is enhanced by a sidebar and graph laying out the difficult process or Pathway that these new Americans must find and take in order to stay in this country.

Third Place: George Brennan, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

While the story's core is the newspaper's forum and its effort to foster a community dialogue on local racial issues, the material goes beyond the event through the effective inclusion of background and supportive information. This story touches a lot of bases in regard to community concerns while presenting representative voices. This smooth, sensitive narrative is bolstered by good photo display. However, the pull quote seemed a bit bulky and it is unclear who the speaker is.

**Third Place: Jennette Barnes and Mike Bonnet,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

This is a compelling story that incorporates divergent views of the 2007 Bianco factory raid. It is certainly timely, in that its narrative and photos underscore the fears and anxiety currently gripping undocumented immigrants. It is a disturbing but must-read type of story. The writing is generally good, but a couple of things could use some editing, tightening and more clarity: the chronology and who is speaking is confusing at times, and too much background information that occasionally clogs the narrative and could have been condensed with the details saved for the sidebars.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Kymelya Sari, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Interesting profile of a spiritual leader, and a congregation. Intro really drew me in.

Second Place: Heather Beasley Doyle, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA
Good description and detail, nice job melding local with national -- i.e. overall decline of mainline denominations. Clean writing, too.

Third Place: Anne O'Connor, Nasoba Valley Voice, Dracut/Methuen/, MA
Good handle on culturally significant topic.

Honorable Mention: Richard Price, The Grafton News, Grafton, MA
"A winding spiritual path"

Honorable Mention: Richard Price, The Grafton News, Grafton, MA
"Cystic fibrosis: A love story"

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Thorough, thoughtful reporting and commentary.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT
Interesting series putting faces and names to larger issues, ideas. In particular I enjoyed "Caring for dead..." But overall a solid set of stories.

Third Place: Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME
Stories covered a lot of scenarios, went beyond "normal" religion coverage that's out there.

Honorable Mention: Peter Jasinski, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA
"Irreconcilable Differences"

Honorable Mention: Rebecca Hyman, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA
"Paint With Glass"

Honorable Mention: Lane Lambert, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
"As numbers dip, churches find new ways to connect"

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
A well-written look at a local manifestation of a national catastrophe.

Second Place: Elizabeth Clemente, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA
A perceptive story revealing to readers the changing ecosystem around them.

Third Place: Kate Gardner, The Forecaster, Falmouth, ME
A story that shows how technology can take unexpected applications!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Christine Legere, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
An impressively deep exploration of a major research project with bearing on Cape Cod's well being.

Second Place: Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
A well-researched story about the major threat today to American science.

Third Place: Richard K. Lodge, The Daily News, Newburyport, MA
A story that shows how local invasive species are always local news, attacking one community at a time.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Specialty Publications

First Place: Bill Shaner, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
It was heartening to see a story and photo package devoted to a population society would rather forget. People who have been incarcerated need all the help they can get, including through stories like this. Also appreciated the diversity of subjects.

Second Place: Tracie Seed, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI
Nice presentation and illustration for a story that helps people better understand dyslexia.

Third Place: Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
An important story about how women can fall into sex trafficking, and how a community can find the places to best address the tragic issue. It seemed there was some conflict around whether police considered trafficking a problem in the community, and I would have liked more focus on that friction.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Emily Clark, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
This series was impressive not only for the length of time devoted to reporting and writing (over a year), but also for the details of the lives portrayed in the stories. Each one was riveting in its own way and revealed a program built on a lot of heart.

Second Place: Heather Beasley Doyle, Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA
I appreciated how the reporter found the atypical faces of affordable housing, and how such a program can benefit lives in dramatic ways.

Third Place: Emily Clark, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
A church holding its first Transgender Day of Visibility could be a rote story. Fortunately, the writer took time to find the right people to make it a touching journey for personal truth.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
It was fascinating to see a side of Martha's Vineyard not normally seen. Like any city, it struggles with having enough workforce housing, but the issue is compounded by the Island's seasonal nature. The graphics were a good addition, but what could have

enhanced it further would be to include some portraits of the people affected by the situation in addition to the housing photos.

*Second Place: John Stanton,
The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA*

From the debate over the use of Narcan to the image problem Nantucket has with opioid abuse, this story has many interesting angles that bring the national crisis home to the reader.

Third Place: Callie Ferguson, The Forecaster, Falmouth, ME
Maine's food insecurity issue is not something that makes national headlines, but it's an important topic to the local community. Hopefully, this story will inspire more gleaners.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Compelling return to the homeless problem, which, in 2005, was the focus of city-wide efforts. Now, in 2017, the problem has increased four-fold!

Second Place: Brian Fraga, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Opioids have attacked this city, as it has statewide. The Herald News shows the neighbors of its attacks in "The Faces of Addiction".

*Third Place: Jill Harmacinski,
Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA*
A terrific photo of a two-year-old child's anguish of her mother, who has overdosed in a toy store aisle leads to a powerful piece of journalism.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Neal Simpson, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Thorough look at the persistent problems of the lack of beds and services for those with mental health problems in Massachusetts.

*Second Place: Jessica Trufant,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA*
Heartbreaking story of how the opioid crisis is out of control in all communities.

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

Third Place: K.C. Myers, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Impressive coverage region-wide on opioid crisis.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

*First Place: Joshua Boyd,
Swampscott Reporter, Swampscott, MA*
We need more Tod Johnsons in the fight against opioid in sports -- especially youth sports. A timely topic coupled with strong writing.

*Second Place: Kaylee Sullivan,
The Milton Independent, Milton, VT*
Sullivan makes it easy to feel like one of "Bill's Boys". Milton is lucky to have such a Little League icon, and that this great feature story was written while he is still alive at 8Second Place.

*Third Place: Chris McDaniel,
Abington Mariner, Abington, MA*
McDaniel does a nice job of telling the story of the mountains that Josh Martin had to climb as a high school student athlete. Good job by both McDaniel and Martin.

*Honorable Mention: Andrew Martin,
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT*

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

*First Place: Alex Palmer,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
A fascinating feature about a dying sport that has been so much a part of New England, and just what it takes to participate. Solid writing by the reporter.

Second Place: Dan Bolles, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
A fun feature on Bill "Spaceman" Lee -- probably the most written about ex-Red Sox player.

*Third Place: Drew Gordon,
The Other Paper, South Burlington, VT*
Coach Paul Jordan presented as a Hall of Fame legend by turning around a program. We'd love to play for him. Facts there, organization could be better.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Justin Pelletier, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME
The loss of a father has inspired Jeromey Rancourt and Pelletier tells the story perfectly.

Second Place: Aviva Luttrell, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA
Wonderful update on how Roller Derby is not played for those of us old enough to remember the slugfests. Photos help with presentation.

Third Place: Matthew Langone, The Sun, Lowell, MA
Interesting story about a quirky runner who wants to cover all 1,100 streets! Good sense of feel.

*Honorable Mention: Brendan Kurrie,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Fascinating story of Kayleigh Ellison overcoming adversity -- and the NCAA -- to play soccer.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

*First Place: Steven Barlow,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT*
Incredible story about Gene DeFronzo, at age 8First Place and with health issues overcoming the odds to become a member of the 700 Marathon Club. Excellent detail in this article!

*Second Place: Steve Derderian,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Wonderful compassion shown in the story telling by Derderian about two dead high school hockey players at Falmouth. The worst fear for any school.

*Third Place: Jennifer Toland,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
Woland tells the story of overcoming personal adversity (losing a leg) -- a major step in sports so often -- but still becoming "tough as nails".

*Honorable Mention: Alex Hall,
New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH
"Andrews enjoying NCAA glory"*

SPORTS STORY

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Joshua Boyd, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

An inspirational piece about an exceptional man, striving despite a limiting illness. Story does well in bringing other voices into this man's story, to sound it out more fully.

Second Place: Trevor Hass, Duxbury Clipper, Duxbury, MA

A fine portrait of a family in the aftermath of the death of its daughter and sister, recounting her life and death. Story paints a warm but well-rounded picture of Emmy.

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

Tautly written account of a record swim across the English Channel by an older woman. A winning lead and ending to this piece.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Phil Stacey, The Salem News, Salem, MA

A top-notch piece of writing that pays due tribute to a tough but beloved and successful coach. Fitting anecdotes and quotes enhance this piece.

Second Place: Wil Kramlich, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

An interesting topic, well and deeply explored. Story includes lots of voices, a good set of quotes, an excellent lead, and a strong ending.

Third Place: Tommy Cassell,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

A stirring human interest account of an athlete persevering, despite having cancer. Touching without being sentimental.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

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

In-depth historical research and telling interviews propel this well-written piece and help enliven this look at the past and present of the almost-forgotten sport of candlepin bowling. Story is enhanced by the well-developed local angles for the Worcester paper on this topic.

Second Place: Jennifer Toland,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This is a deep, well-written piece that does justice to this historic victory for the Holy Cross basketball team. The quality of the interviews with the surviving players, the deft use of their sharp quotes, and the interweaving of the history of this event lift this piece into award-winning status.

Third Place: Bill Porter, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Smart, crisp writing sparks this detailed account of a Fenway Park replica Little League field. The story touches all the bases in providing specifics about how the park came about, what it cost, and what it means to the kids and to the community.

SPOT NEWS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Nick Greenhalgh,

Billerica Minuteman, Billerica, MA

This story by reporter Nick Greenhalgh was the most comprehensive spot news story in this category and the newspaper gave the reporter plenty of space to tell the story. With the lead story on the accident and the two sidebars the detail of the reporting was such that no reader could think they missed any information about the incident. Good job.

Second Place: Dana Forsythe and Laura Lovett,

Watertown Tab & Press, Watertown, MA

This is coverage with excellent details and breadth of reporting coupled with an impressive presentation of stories and photos, thus earning this winning recognition.

Third Place: Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Brandon, VT

A well written news story accompanied by a fine package of photos. A good read with plenty of detail and first hand, on-scene reporting.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: John Flowers,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

A well written story with comprehensive details to include extensive interviews with people who risked their own lives to try and save a pilot from the burning plane. Unfortunately the pilot died, but the emotions and recalling of the incident by those fi

Second Place: Joshua Balling and Peter Sutters,

The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

This story of a ferry along Cape Cod striking a Hyannis jetty earned significant news coverage in New England. The reporters for the Inquirer and Mirror did a most impressive job of writing and detailing the incident for the readers of their local weekly newspaper.

Third Place: Steve Fuller,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

With significant detail and historical background the reporter and photographers for the Ellsworth American did a fine job detailing the fire which destroyed a restaurant about to open at the location a long series of restaurants which, according to the story, "...had left their mark on the community."

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Judith Meyer, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

The reporting of this story is dramatic and heartfelt. The first few paragraphs focused on the dying man's last words, and deserve high praise for writing by the reporter. The praise continues for the rest of the story detailing the efforts of those who tried to save the victim of the tragic accident. Adding to the main story and sidebar are the dramatic photos and display of the multiple vehicle crash.

Second Place: Alyssa Dandrea and Ray Duckler,

Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

The two-story package detailing discovery of evidence solving who was the killer (now deceased) in a decades old cold case murder of at least six females, nearly all children, are exceptionally complete and compelling. Researchers will want to return to this reporting as time goes by and what remains of the mystery is solved.

Third Place: The Sun, Lowell, MA

As with so many of the award winning news stories, this two-story package has so much news and detail about the shooting murder that a reader would not have to look anywhere else to answer the perennial questions of who, what, when, where and how. This was an outstanding job of reporting by The Sun staff.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

This story about the sudden and surprising death of the young, highly regarded Chief of Police of Keene was fine representation of how reporters should go about their work. Paying attention to sudden tips, rumors, coincidental changes in municipal activities and checking sources, four first-year reporters sense the magnitude of the story and within a few minutes confirmed the accuracy the information. Good job on an important story to the community.

Second Place: Ethan Genter, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

As complete a news story as could be put together under the deadlines of spot news. Interviews, research and on scene reporting of the ferry grounding on a breakwater in Hyannis, injuring 15 and causing significant damage to the ship make this to top story in this category. The display and use of news photos of the event adds to its win.

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

This is a well written news story reporting the shooting death of a woman by her husband on an early morning in March. The reporter's style of writing as he develops the story keeps the reader moving along to learn more of the details of both the shooting and the arrest of the husband. Well done.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Peter Sutters,

The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Sutters' enterprising article highlight the pressures placed on traditional, intensively regulated taxi-cab service providers on Nantucket, by the growing competition from so-called ride-sharing services that show up during the high-demand tourist season.

Second Place: Jennifer Osborn,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Like other states across the nation, Maine recently legalized the recreational use of marijuana, and amid the regulatory challenges facing state and local officials, Osborn drilled down on one of the most challenging: "How high is too high for motorists to safely drive down a roadway?" Entertaining and informative, Osborn's reporting explained the police and other law enforcement lack the tools and standards to assess excessive marijuana use like those for drinking drivers.

Third Place: Dick Broom,

Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Routine government announcements of planning drafts rarely warrant an award for journalism, but Broom's clear, straightforward organization and writing stood out among other entries documenting similarly routine government workings. The writer swapped jargon for clarity in describing "a comprehensive transportation plan aimed at reducing traffic and parking congestion, improving safety and promoting high-quality visitor experiences." The result gave local readers a clear picture of what they might expect if the plan is implemented.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Christopher Williams, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

An exceptional example of enterprising investigative reporting, Williams' account of the inhumane treatment of a female prisoner as she was transported from Florida to Maine by a private contractor to face charges of probation violation almost defies belief. Williams' reporting led at least three Maine district attorneys to terminate their contracts with U.S. Prisoner Transport, the private company, responsible for Quinn's ordeal. Additionally, the Maine chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union announced its own investigation of the incident as "abusive," "...humiliating," and "illegal".

Second Place: Susan Spencer,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

In Spencer's article, she details how huge trucks regularly exceed state-imposed weight limits, damaging state and local roadways, and compromising motorist safety, and she explains how this represents more than a mere annoyance and inconvenience for local drivers.

Third Place: Ethan Genter, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Genter explains how a summertime accident inspired the latest chapter in a decades-long dispute over the light-weight, motorized 2-wheelers, popular components of the tourism business of Martha's Vineyard and other resort communities. The author tells all sides to the issue: how activists have pushed for an outright ban on moped rentals in the past, and now are focused on stricter local safety standards for the vehicles; as well as how opponents argue that mopeds are more dangerous than bicycles and demand special training to operate safely; while others seek a compromise to accommodate continued rentals.

AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Weekly/Specialty Combined Class

First Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

The annual photo challenge to readers, strictly judged, results in a colorful special section of pictures from readers that are truly artistic works. It's an impressive section that we suspect has a long shelf life in readers' homes.

Second Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

This is the kind of content you don't see much of in newspapers any more, but this reader-generated creative writing is crisp, interesting and thought-compelling – good stuff.

Third Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times,

Vineyard Haven, MA

The Times takes an interesting and unique idea and comes up with some compelling people stories in this feature.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Patti Bangert, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Classroom Times is a very well done tabloid section written and illustrated by students in Cape and Islands schools. It's smart, sharp and distinguished, from its news, opinion pieces, entertainment reviews and even ads drawn with enthusiasm.

Second Place: The Sun, Lowell, MA

The Schools page is a fresh take on school, community and social issues by ESL students at Lowell High. The students' writing is described as "passionate voices," and they do not fail to enlighten and educate.

HEADLINE WRITING

Specialty Publications

First Place: Lisa Lynn,

VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT

A touch of mystery invites the reader into the story.

Second Place: Vanessa Czarnecki and Nicole Mercier, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Headlines are just right for the story!

Third Place: Vanessa Czarnecki and Nicole Mercier, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

What your wedding table tells.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

The headlines from Seven Days invite readers in.

Second Place: Lars Trodson,

The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

A headline only the locals would appreciate.

Third Place: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Noun becomes effective and telling verb.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Linda Roy,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

What's not to smile at. So simple, so effective.

Second Place: John Ruddy, The Day, New London, CT

With this headline, you have to read the story.

Third Place: Mark LaFlamme,

Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Today's coffee explained. Fun!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Can't miss this stand-out headline. The photo's presence helps with the punch.

Second Place: James Lowe, The Republican, Springfield, MA

A bizarre headline for a bizarre story!

Third Place: Dana Barbuto, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

A light and tasty headline!

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Jonathan Dame, Newton Tab, Newton, MA

Dame and the TAB showed notable persistence in their effort to learn about anti-semitic incidents within the Newton school system. Over the course of several months, they appealed to the Secretary of State's office multiple times ultimately forcing the release of an investigative report about the incidents. Dame reported on the struggle for information every step of the way and consistently defended the public's right to know.

Second Place: Cameron Machell and George Brennan, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Machell and Brennan made multiple public record requests and appeals to help inform their readers about the circumstances

surrounding a police officer's paid leave. By utilizing the state's FOI laws and defending the public's interest in learning about the investigation, they were able to expose questionable decisions made by this officer and the flawed policies of his department.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Jim Haddadin,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Haddadin is a proven advocate for the public's right to know. He regularly utilizes freedom of information laws to pursue stories in the public interest and pressures government officials to operate in the open. He routinely fights for records when they are withheld and explains the value of transparency to his readers. Haddadin's body of work is an impressive display of right-to-know, know-how and gumption.

Second Place: Caitlin Andrews, Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

The Monitor's fight for video recordings of a recent police shooting exemplifies the watchdog role of the press. Rather than accepting the justification for withholding the recordings, Andrews and the Monitor insisted on transparency and ultimately won their release. The videos showed how law enforcement acted during the shooting and allowed community members to determine if their police officers responded appropriately.

Third Place: Shannon Gallagher and Tom Relihan, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Through their reporting, Gallagher and Relihan provided a lesson on the value of public records and why government transparency is needed. When a police department refused to provide the names of individuals involved in a car accident, these two didn't accept "no" as an answer. Instead, they reported on the secrecy and explained to their readers why the information needed to be shared.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Dan Glaun, The Republican, Springfield, MA

The efforts of Glaun and The Republican to obtain information about an altercation involving off-duty police officers is exemplary. They showed great perseverance in the pursuit of the officers' internal affair records and ultimately won their release. During this public records battle, Glaun informed his readers about the danger of secrecy and served as a much-needed advocate for transparency.

Second Place: Dave Solomon and Staff, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

The Union Leader admirably fought for information related to the tragic death of a former New Hampshire Hospital patient. By suing the city of Nashua, the newspaper highlighted the public's right to know about the state's mental health institutions and the citizens they serve.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

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

What makes this section outstanding in this category is that this paper is a pleasure to handle and to read. The blend on photos and editorial is wonderful.

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

The Islander put together a fantastic section with various stories throughout. One of the dynamic attributes is how the layout is set

up. Each story has a wonderful picture, but you don't see lines and boxes making it difficult to read or unpleasant.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Kristina Dorsey, Maria Reagan,

The Day, New London, CT

"Portraits of Generations" captures attention immediately with the old woman and the young boy. The story was very well written and is filled with stories of the past, present and future.

Second Place: The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

The story on Nancy Schon is well-written with very interesting pictures of her work. The Calendar is extremely easy to navigate.

Third Place: Maria Reagan, Kristina Dorsey,

The Day, New London, CT

The Day has found the formula to catch a reader's eye. Additional benefits to this particular section are the book reviews and the music.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

The editorial department rolled up its sleeves for this section! The Botticelli exhibit, the dance of Sleeping Beauty, and the GOguide are upping the ante for all of us! This is a dynamic section, well-written, and very well designed.

Second Place: Chris Moore,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The "Beetle-Mania" story is an eye-catcher! The whole section is an admirable selection of stage, books, and music.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Hot air balloons on the cover promise, and deliver, great visuals inside. Very interesting coverage on the festival. The Dine & Wine section is packed with interesting information.

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

The Overview special business section is an enterprising project that takes a look at many aspects of the business community in Hancock County. In its tabloid pages it tackles everything from lobstering and logging, to how to grow small businesses. It includes Town Profiles for each community that gives you in a nutshell things like a list of public officials, tax data and school population. A very useful publication.

Second Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times,

Vineyard Haven, MA

The business pages submitted deal with a changing Main Street and the creation of fonts in a type foundry, both good topics, plus an educational and entertaining Q and A with readers writing to "Ask a Geek" about high-tech gear to catch more fish and why phone trees don't work.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

You'll find everything you want to know about the local and regional business climate in the impressive 38-page, two-section broadsheet Outlook 2017 publication. It's comprehensive in scope, well-edited and surely a keeper for readers keen on knowing how businesses developments affect them.

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

There's a good story mix in their Business Matters tabloid sections, with a compelling focus on commercial and retail developments, and jobs. There is plenty of commentary to guide the reader through local, regional, state and national marketplaces.

Third Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

The entire issue of the Berkshire Business Outlook focused on millennials and their impact on the business climate and community: how to attract them and how to assess their skills, plus some interesting input in featured articles written by millennials themselves.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

These are two lively pages with well-designed elements that jump right out at the reader.

Second Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

They don't let their tabloid format hold them back. Clean and attractive make up of material.

Third Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Editorials and commentary combined on one page. Crisp appearance and well-packaged.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Scott Ritter, Paul Choiniere,

The Day, New London, CT

This entry is a little different, with the Commentary Page ahead of the Editorial Page. Perhaps this was because of the striking illustration with the main commentary story. Very well put together.

Second Place: Tony Simollardes,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Two attractively laid-out pages full of article on the topics of great import.

EVENT SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

This special section promoted the entire Christmas season on Nantucket, including its "Stroll Weekend". Beyond that single event, it also serves as a seasonal visitor and shopping guide (smart!). It is beautifully designed, and it has a very unique "Shop Nantucket" centerpiece that shows off goods from local shops/advertisers.

Second Place: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

This included a full schedule of events, along with feature stories about the activities, centerpieces, competitions, vendors, and even the midway workers. This booklet is a terrific promotion for the fair, and it attracted excellent ad support.

Daily Newspapers (circ. >25k)

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Combining tribute to one of the most popular professional athletes in New England with the paper's 150th anniversary and its annual charitable effort made for a memorable event, and no doubt a very popular and profitable special section. Good idea and nice execution.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

This section almost makes one feel as though it should be found in a cookbook. The pictures are used in various ways (with text wrap, bordered, etc.). An overall fun section with a plethora of information.

Second Place: Pem McNerney, Harbor News, Clinton, CT

Very eye-catching photography. Fun concept with "Food Court".

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Good use of photography. I wish there was more inside about food.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Who doesn't love Mom? This whole section is very nostalgic. This pictures drew me back in time. Wonderful!

Second Place: Elaine Ezerins,

St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

Wonderful use of color. Putting pictures of kids smiling and vegetables in the same picture is never a bad decision.

Third Place: Heather McCarthy, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Great explanation in "A glossary for the confused". Fun article.

Honorable Mention: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

These pictures of back-to-school lunch ideas look good enough to eat!

FRONT PAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Woburn Advocate, Woburn, MA

Striking use of archive photos to help tell the story. Strong play of the lead photo, and creative use of type and color. The briefs don't compete despite their color photos.

Second Place: Jennifer Levesque,

Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

Energetic mix of image and words. While the photo makes clear that the subject is the president-elect, the text turns the frustration around by putting responsibility on voters and the country, invoking readers.

Third Place: Chris Stevens,

Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

Strong example of a modular layout, with descending head orders and photo sizes. Secondary display type stands out just enough to help the reader without being distracting.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

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

The page stand out for several reasons. There's no doubt which is the lead article. The photos don't compete because of their sizes. The refer texts get to the point in only one sentence. With each item serving as a billboard, the page takes a step away from a newspapering past, and toward a future when readers want small bites before deciding if they should dig in.

Second Place: Paul Miller, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

The eye-catching photo of the great blue heron across the top, nestling the paper's flag in the frame, isn't just a big picture. Since

the secondary photo is so quiet, the big blue bird makes sense. The page is clean, without typographical distraction and leaves enough body copy for the reader to learn about the topic.

Third Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

This page edged the others out for its simplicity. Neither photo knocks your socks off, but both are played appropriately. The panorama by the sea is strengthened by the elegant type overlaid. And the heads show a good variety weight without resorting to a 96-point-plus bold head.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Greg Harmel, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The page stood out not only for the challenging photo, but also for the way it displays the package and for reporting the other news of the day. The package picks up on the photo content with one leg of type on each side. Strong photo and headlines made a difference.

Second Place: Greg Harmel, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Treating opposing candidates roughly the same is always a challenge, especially when one photos is a black and white horizontal, and the other is a color vertical. The design keeps the size of the faces consistent, and the design appropriately steps into the background on the rest of the page.

Third Place: Tom Lynch,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

At first impression, the page is complicated with nine mug shots in the lead package, but the news behind them comes through after a bit of reading. The page shows that design does not always need to provide a quick read to succeed.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

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

Well-produced and readable section full of community news and columns. The lead feature on nightlife in Edgartown is a lively mix of story and photos that captures a strong sense of the island.

Second Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Good design along with fine writing and photos makes this an appealing section. Features on an herb farm and turning a farmhouse in to a dream home are particularly well done.

Third Place: Jen Cowart, Cranston Herald, Cranston, RI

Two-story package on wedding trends is a good take on a popular topic. It's not easy to find a fresh angle to enliven an annual section.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

A well-designed, vibrant section packed with an assortment of features and anchored by an excellent story about hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Profiles of hikers are compelling and guaranteed to inspire many.

Second Place: Paul Miller, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Eye-catching design enhances a strong piece on goats being used to "mow" the city landfill. Fine writing and terrific photos!

Third Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Excellent use of staff members' knowledge of New England to provide useful information on vacation spots across the region. The easy-to-read presentation is a bonus.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Maryjo Wheatley, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

A sensitive presentation of a difficult-to-discuss topic seldom tackled by newspapers. The personal stories are moving and the medical primer rounds out an impressive package.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

The movie preview grabs the reader's attention with outstanding design and makes good use of wire copy in capsule descriptions of upcoming films.

Weekly Newspapers

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

This is a terrific special section. That front page photo of innkeeper Elise LeBovit is just fabulous and makes you want to see what's inside. The layout is very strong. The photography is superb. The content is out of the ordinary, which is so compelling. We love the middle spread – Made on MVY. Do this weekly!! It is eye-catching, the photography just perfect. It's a great way to showcase your local retailers. And when you run out of retailers, how about Fixin' it on MVY?

Second Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Another excellent special section idea. Very well done, especially from the editorial side. A very strong variety of content. The middling reproduction holds it back a bit.

Third Place: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

An excellent combo idea here. You are on to something here with 'Where Are They Now?' -- think of the possibilities of doing this online and what a viral sensation it could be. The layout is very strong as well.

SPECIAL SECTION OR SUPPLEMENT

Specialty Publications

First Place: West Hartford Life, West Hartford, CT

Gorgeous holiday cover photo fronts this beautifully designed section. Beautiful photography and sections throughout.

Second Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

Unique, service-oriented section that is devoted to local game changers! Great cover and individual layouts.

Weekly Newspapers

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

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Third Place: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

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online and what a viral sensation it could be. The layout is very strong as well.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

An excellent special section filled with helpful to-do articles across a wide spectrum of activities. Very well designed with strong newsprint reproduction. We're hoping that this was also distributed throughout the summer to vacationers on the Cape. Advertising support is just OK when it should be much stronger. The use of a coupon insert might help generate revenue. Here's another section that also can come alive in digital format.

Second Place: Andy Tomolonis and Staff,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

A very well produced special section. Not the easiest subject matter to put in layman's terms. They did a wonderful job. A perfect example of a strong special section on behalf of a utility.

Third Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

This is such a great reader engagement idea -- having readers pick "best ofs" in the community. It makes for a highly read special section that, in turn, guarantees strong exposure for advertisers. We'd like to see the newspaper follow the successful formula so many city magazines have employed: Spreading out categories across several sections and adding some actual reviews -- perhaps a brief feature on each winner. This is a great start. Also an approach that draws strong reader interest when reproduced online.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION (EDITORIAL)

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Very impressed with the overall quality of content, design, and advertising! Loved the feature on mountain jobs! Great use of photos. Very nicely done!

Second Place: Jamie Kageleiry and Tara Kenny,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Love this niche pub! What a great way to showcase the arts. Design and content were very high quality. Any art enthusiast would love this!

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Beautiful wedding magazine! I enjoyed reading the editor's note with her own story -- any woman would! Great quality advertising as well.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Very robust lifestyle magazine. I enjoyed the content and high quality design. Distribution plan is a big value to advertisers. Very consistent quality on all editions!

Second Place: The Daily News, Newburyport, MA

All of the issues were very impressive! I enjoyed the "blast from the past" feature in the Summer issue. The Scene Starters pages with subscription offer was great. Good use of photos throughout the magazine.

Third Place: The Salem News, Salem, MA

Really enjoyed these magazines. The "It happened here" feature is unique and one that I will take back to my editor. Great design, great local coverage.

SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Chris McDaniel,**

The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA

Chris McDaniel looked at Hingham High's state championship in boy's lacrosse from many different angles. Particularly engaging were McDaniel's profile of long-time coach John Todd, and his feature on the four team members who had earlier won a state championship in hockey.

Second Place: **Joe McConnell,**

Saugus Advertiser, Saugus, MA

Using an array of youth soccer photos and the athletes' own voices, writer Joe McConnell chronicled the lifetime friendship of four Saugus High School senior soccer players.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

The Standard Times entry stood out for its story selection and execution, particularly Laurie Los's story on offensive linemen. The story was unique and unexpected, creativity conceived, thoroughly reported and crisply written, telling in colorful and sympathetic detail the story of athletes who seldom see their names in the newspaper. Also of note in the Standard-Times coverage were the columns Buddy Thomas, shining a light on many dimensions of the sports history of the Massachusetts South Coast.

Second Place: **The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**

The Eagle's stories on local high school athletes in springtime tournaments and championships were not only thorough, but written with style and imagination.

Third Place: **Josh Kaufmann,**

St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

Creative photography marked the St. Albans entry, particularly the two-page truck that captured both the action and the crowd in a state championship basketball game.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: **The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Reporters Ron Chimelis, Jen McCaffrey and Garry Brown, in joyous and sometimes personal terms, wrote about the career and legacy of retiring Red Sox legend David Ortiz, capturing—whether by design or serendipity—the joy and personal connection so many readers felt when it came to Ortiz's historic time with the Red Sox.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Attractive, well-written section with strong photos and design. Nice!

Second Place: **Dean Geddes and Staff,**

The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Local stories, local faces. Good work appreciated.

Third Place: **Greg Lederer,**

The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT

Solid annual wrap-up. Good job.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Salem News, Salem, MA**

Quite a summer project for the sports department. This requires planning, reporting, compilation in this all-around quality effort. Thirteen signature sports programs of the region is an excellent project that few papers would attempt -- and over thirteen days! Bravo.

Second Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

This is a fine round-up of fall football. A huge geography to cover and a lot of schools. A good amount of time was clearly invested in this.

Third Place: **The Sun, Lowell, MA**

A good, solid section. Effort applauded. Love the supplement's title.

EDITORIAL WRITING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Bill Kirk, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA**

Hard-hitting, well-argued on topics of interest. Good writing.

Second Place: **Paul Dietterle,**

The Exeter News-Letter, Exeter, NH

Rightly shines spotlight on government, but also not afraid to offend its readers.

Third Place: **Dan MacAlpine, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

Logical deductions and clear writing make these editorials easy to read.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Angelo Lynn,**

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Well-backgrounded and reasoned editorials. Plain, clear writing.

Second Place: **Marianne Stanton,**

The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

These editorials speak to the reader in a strong voice. Well-written, cogently argued.

Third Place: **Walter Bird Jr.,**

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Powerfully written editorials on topics not often addressed by editorial writers.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: **Paul Choiniere, The Day, New London, CT**

Not afraid to rip an office-holder it once endorsed. These editorials take strong stands on issues important to the community.

Second Place: **Jim Campanini, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

Almost colloquial in tone, but forceful. Makes its point effectively.

Third Place: **Jeff Adair,**

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Well-written, quickly draws the reader in. The topics may be familiar, but these editorials bring new light on them.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: **Stephen Busemeyer,**

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Superbly done -- extremely well-written, humor when needed, anger when appropriate.

*Second Place: Edward Achorn,
The Providence Journal, Providence, RI*
Hard-hitting and blunt. Well done.

*Third Place: Tony Simollardes,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
Strong stands on significant local issues. Well written.

COMMENTARY

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
This examination of one group's resistance to immigration was even-handed and made its points most effectively.

*Second Place: Bryan McGonigle,
Georgetown Record, Georgetown, MA*
Effectively shines a light on one cause of anti-Semitism. Well-written.

*Third Place: Geoff Currier,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
What is that building? This piece of commentary answers the question in a readable, light-hearted manner.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Quickly to the point and stays on it all the way through.

Second Place: Paul Pronovost, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
A frank examination of the press' role in the election campaign. This was a foretaste of what was to come.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: John Grabar, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT
Subtle, but effective. Clear and simple artwork guides the reader to the point.

*Second Place: Joe Marshall,
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME*
I liked the bold strokes. First time that I've seen an iPhone dominate an editorial cartoon.

*Third Place: Royal Bruce Montgomery,
The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI*
Satire at its best. The group being ridiculed doesn't even appear in the cartoon, but to the reader, there's no doubt who they are.

Daily Newspapers

*First Place: Don Landgren Jr.,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
A year later, this topic may have receded from our memories, but at the time, it was on everybody's mind. This was a highly effective way of dealing with the issue humorously.

Second Place: Chan Lowe, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
This was a great example of the phrase "reductio ad absurdum". It also leaves no doubt as to its point.

*Third Place: Jacinta Meyers and Paul Choiniere,
The Day, New London, CT*
Grim, even grisly, but a powerful statement. Well-crafted.

COLUMNIST

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Emma Cotton,
VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT*
"In Cider Houses Rule" Emma Cotton shared a scent of apples and created a thirst for liquid fall; an effective romp through cider history in Vermont. Cheers!

*Second Place: Mike Mulhern,
Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT*
Mike Mulhern may not ski well, but his writing is a skillful self-deprecation.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

*First Place: Jessie Raymond,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT*
Jessie Raymond uses detail to sharpen a funny, full immersion into daily absurdities.

*Second Place: Stephen Fay,
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME*
Stephen Fay's wine reports are a heady and full-bodied blend of humor; he champions cheap and delicious choices.

*Third Place: Carole Vasta Folley,
The Other Paper, South Burlington, VT*
Writing about holidays is difficult. What else can be said? But Carole Vasta Folley's stab at Valentine's Day and lofty New Year's resolutions reads like a fresh, funny conversation.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Marc M. Dion, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Marc Munroe Dion takes his razor humor to the throats of the deadbeat and the corrupt. The laughter and outrage that Dion creates together is a hard task to accomplish. Bravo.

Second Place: Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Saralee Perel's writing has a vivid and it-happened-just-now quality, perfect foil to unexpected laughs.

*Third Place: Emely Del Santos Varosky,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA*
Emely DelSanto Varosky is both feel-good and funny in recounting her real-life experiences.

*Honorable Mention: Tim Miller,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Tim Miller shares comedic episodes with his mother, that is also whimsical, lovable, and unpredictable as a doting son portraying this woman.

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Combined Class

First Place: Marc M. Dion, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Honesty, attitude, and a love of his city are front and center in Dion's writing. He can scold effectively. He has a great sense of the absurd. A breezy style with a serious message. A real asset for his newspaper.

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

Perfect pitch in his borrowing of the Gettysburg Address. "The world will little note nor long remember what Trump said here." And sensible use of his immigrant status in invoking the Statue of Liberty.

Third Place: John Walters, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Great takedown of Bernie Sanders who had refused to talk with staff from his newspaper.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Bill Eville, Vineyard Gazette,

Martha's Vineyard, MA

Bill Eville examines his past and now the future faces of fatherhood through reflecting on his own insensitivity to his parents when he was a teenager, to pondering trying to protect his own young daughter, and modeling a paternal principle by taking his 8-year-old daughter to a march in Washington, where unity and kindness ruled the day even as he watched his daughter shine among strangers.

Second Place: Martha Ball,

The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Few capture a sense of place like Martha Ball. Her prose is poetic, her spirit curious, and local history is deftly captured in her hand. "January Road" and "At the Harbor" inhale and exhale in the sweetest sense of a peaceful landscape meditation.

Third Place: David Mark, The Beacon-Villager, Maynard, MA

David Mark fascinates with historical insights, such as "The story of Boston Post canes" and "Lafayette's 1824 visit to Stow." The reader enjoys a sense of belonging through such anchors to the past.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Andy Tomolonis,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Rare is the column that evokes the shock and randomness of illness as told by Andy Tomolonis. In each column, the reader feels his myriad of emotions – fear, confusion, then gratitude, and marvels at the circumstances that led to his discovery; a column long to be remembered.

Second Place: Ray Duckler, Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

Ray Duckler takes an intelligent and compassionate approach with insightful writing that gives voice to the rarely heard needs of children with autism, and the difficulty of finding effective teachers. In his column, "A wall, a vet and a fallen hero," Duckler weaves a potent narrative about a life lost and a life saved in Vietnam, a mother's memories and lifelong friendship with the surviving soldier; just one very well told story sparked by The Moving Wall, a movable Vietnam memorial.

Third Place: Marc M. Dion, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Marc Munroe Dion is a whipsaw of snark and a take-no-prisoners approach. He exposes cash hungry predators in "Sober Houses and the art of making a buck off recovering." Every paper needs a fierce watchdog.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Mark Hayward,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

"Community rallies around Syrian families" captures the heart connection between Manchester locals and the Mustafa family from Syria. Mark Hayward moves the reader with examples of American welcome, and how gratitude from aspiring citizens has a long, positive reach into the future.

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

Gratitude. Laughter as intimacy. Moving beyond self-assumptions. Saralee Perel compels the readers beyond their comfort zones in "Dancing in the street." After all, if she can hobble out there with a spinal cord injury and let go, then what's stopping us? In "Just another routine day," she compares her own mindset of "we did nothing important" to her husband's thrills at the smallest tasks. Saralee Perel writes with radiance and makes all things new.

Third Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

O'Shaughnessy's work is both laugh-out-loud and read-out-loud good. In "Hey, Aetna, what you done for us lately", she skewers the insurance Goliath for moving to hipper states like Massachusetts and New York. Dowdy Connecticut is getting dumped, and its state motto says it all: "The Land of Steady Habits".

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Matt Dickerson,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Graceful writing about the great outdoors. And a good fish tale too.

Second Place: Andy Kirkaldy,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

A risk to describe your daughter in a lacrosse game. A risk worth taking. You could see that kid playing the game.

Third Place: Karl Lindholm,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Great descriptive piece of what a point guard does.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Bill Reynolds,

The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

Reynolds is a great storyteller. He writes crisply, and easily pulls the reader in and keeps him there. He pulls with questions before you know they are questions, and you want to find out the answer. He is convincing, and Reynolds can write endearingly but not over-sentimentally about his mother.

Second Place: Matt Vautour,

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Persuasive piece on NBA Assistant Coach Becky Hammon should pursue a job as head coach at a major college. He argues that it is "an outdated belief that men wouldn't play for a woman", and he argues it successfully. You want to believe what he is saying will happen. Vautour does what a columnist is suppose to do: convince you.

Third Place: Paul Miller, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Miller plays with words in a way that catches the reader. He drops the right word and carries it effectively, and with meaning. Nice job.

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Combined Class

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This online special section was made with online in mind. The staff created an interactive timeline, photo galleries, a family tree, and an interactive map that all added to the online storytelling. Everything was well organized, informative, and easy to follow.

Second Place: The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

It's great to see a media outlet admit that its normal operating procedures simply do not work on an election night, and change to reflect that. This coverage was informative and exactly what readers needed that night. Scribble and Facebook Live was a great solution to stand out on election night.

**Third Place: Christine Hochkeppel,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

The more I dove into this series, the more I appreciated the way we saw and read the story of this trip through the eyes of the photographer. Great multimedia and great storytelling.

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Combined Class

**First Place: Andy Tomolonis, Brendan Kurie, and Staff,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

A thoughtful and comprehensive use of social media and other digital tools to foster community engagement online and in the physical world.

Second Place: Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

"LIVE: North of Boston residents weigh in on first presidential debate"

BEST BLOG ON A NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Combined Class

First Place: Rebecca Duda, The Sun, Lowell, MA

This well-researched and well-written blog is a joy to read, as Rebecca Duda brings readers back in time to learn about the not-so-distant past. Every newspaper should have a local history blog like this one!

**Second Place: Larry Parnass,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**

Creative way of covering an issue that's very important in Massachusetts right now. A timely and relevant blog based on solid reporting.

**Third Place: Zoelle Morrissey,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Zoelle does a wonderful job with this blog. Very impressive!

BEST INFOGRAPHIC ON WEBSITE

Weekly Newspapers

**First Place: Caitlyn Kelleher,
Bedford Minuteman, Bedford, MA**

"High water reading at Bedford High School"

**Second Place: Tim Suellentrop,
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

"Graham Lake map"

**Third Place: Caitlyn Kelleher,
Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA**

"Interactive Timeline: Lexington marks Patriots' Day"

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Gregory Bryant, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
"Where sharks have attacked"

**Second Place: Andy Tomolonis,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
"Test run the New Bedford Half Marathon course"

**Third Place: Gregory Bryant,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
"Tick-borne diseases"

BEST WEBCAST

Daily Newspapers

**First Place: Reinout van Wagtenonk,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**

A smart, compelling and human application of episodic digital storytelling. A perfect example of telling a big story well in many small components.

Second Place: Peter Huoppi, Casey O'Neill, Keith O'Brien, Mike DiMauro, The Day, New London, CT

Great use of video to cover a centerpiece of the local sports scene.

**Third Place: Nick Golden and Tracey Rauh,
Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**
Hilariously informative!

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Specialty Publications

First Place: Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Second Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
www.vineyardvisitor.com

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT
An enticing front page that manages to elevate both news and culture. Lots of local ads. Smart use of sponsored content, especially the video.

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Third Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Allie Baker, Jessica Garcia and Cecily Weisburgh, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

A clear winner! The homepage is cleanly designed, but still brimming with news, community events, and local ads. The site prioritizes unique information and community engagement over repackaged wire copy. A model for doing digital right at the local level.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT

**Third Place: Mike Effland and Staff,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

MOBILE PRODUCT DESIGN

Combined Class

First Place: **The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

First Place: **Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

BEST OVERALL MOBILE PRODUCT

Combined Class

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

A fun feature that adds value for mobile users and caters to the island's many tourists.

NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

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

Highly polished video on an interesting topic that many people aren't aware of. A high quality production with top notch sound and graphics. A+!

Honorable Mention: **Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Nice work. It's so important for news outlets to document and preserve the voices of our veterans so that they can be heard by future generations.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Kristopher Radder, Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT**

An unflinching look at one man's personal battle with a deadly disease. You can tell a lot of work went into this project.

Second Place: **Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

I am so glad that the Cape Cod Times captured this coach's moving speech on video! Paired with the footage from the ice hockey game, it provides a glimpse into how a community grieves the loss of young lives.

Third Place: **Allan Jung, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

This footage does a nice job of going behind the scenes to show how people train to become firefighters. A great idea for a video!

Third Place: **Jason Kolnos, Merrily Cassidy, Christine Legere, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

An educational video about a complicated and controversial topic.

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

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

High production value and beautiful scenery make this entry a winner.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**

Well shot with beautiful scenery. Very nicely done.

Second Place: **Allie Baker, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

This video of cows running out of a barn was short and sweet, and a delight to watch.

Third Place: **Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

A fun little video about a very unique collection of movie memorabilia.

Honorable Mention: **Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT**
"Rise up": a poem by Naomi Jones"

FEATURE VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

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

The girls' voices and personalities really shine through in this video. Nice work!

Second Place: **Conor Hagen and Chris Fischer, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
High quality video, beautifully shot.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Cloe Poisson, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT**

An extraordinary look at two sisters who have overcome so much in their lives. Very well done, bravo!

Second Place: **Susan Dunne, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT**

If you think you've seen it all, then think again. This cute video was a lot of fun to watch.

Third Place: **Chris Lisinski, The Sun, Lowell, MA**
"Legally blind runner using technology to race"

This video demonstrates how cutting edge technology can assist visually impaired runners. It was interesting to see how it works.

Honorable Mention: **Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT**
"History taught with an anvil and hammer"

SPORTS VIDEO

Combined Class

First Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**

One of the best high school football videos I've ever seen. A wonderful behind-the-scenes look at rivals battling for victory on Thanksgiving Day. Great camera work captured the raw emotions of the moment, and the slow motion replays were fun to watch. Two thumbs up!

Second Place: **Eva Sollberger, Seven Days, Burlington, VT**
This video about arm wrestling was beautifully shot. The footage captured the intensity of these competitions, and it was interesting to hear what the arm wrestlers had to say in the interviews. The soundtrack was great, too!

Third Place: **Bill Burt and Paul Bilodeau, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Excellent idea for a video! Very engaging and entertaining. It was amazing to see how expensive NFL merchandise can be.

Honorable Mention: **Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**
"MDI Marathon Time Lapse"

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Combined Class

First Place: **Andy Castillo, Paul Franz, Matt Burkhart, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

Good production and sound quality. This video included a nice mix of scenery from the rally and interviews with people who were there.

Second Place: **Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Events like this are made for video. Jason Kolnos of the Cape Cod Times did a nice job of capturing the sights and sounds of this unique rescue effort.

Third Place: **Allie Baker, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

This no-frills video gets the job done. Kudos to Allie Baker for keeping the camera lens focused on the bobcat as it sprinted away -- that cat was fast!

SLIDE SHOW

Combined Class

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

This interactive map told the story very well.

Second Place: **Ryan Hutton, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Dramatic photos. Kudos to the photographer who captured lots of great details.

Third Place: **Kristopher Radder, Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT**

The photographer captured many intimate moments from the final chapter of Andy's life. Nice work.

Third Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Good use of historical photos. This slideshow puts recent events into perspective by showing what has happened in the past.

FEATURE PHOTO

Specialty Publications

First Place: **James Vaiknoras, Newburyport Magazine, The Daily News, Newburyport, MA**

This is a very strong and telling image!

Second Place: **Rick Cinclair, Worcester Living, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Great image with excellent composition.

Third Place: **Glenn Callahan, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT**

Nice image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Ken McGagh, Medfield Press, Medfield, MA**

Ouch! The funny helmet makes this a really appealing image! Very nice peak action shot!

Second Place: **Tim Jean, The Haverhill Gazette, Haverhill, MA**

Slam! Nice strong image.

Third Place: **Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

This is a beautiful feature image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

This is a well-planned, beautiful image. The clouds must have been hard to arrange at that right angle. Lovely!

Second Place: **Kristopher Rabasca, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

Peak action! Well done.

Third Place: **Maria Thibodeau, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Lovely image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Very clever image to move with a story on sunglasses. Very, very well thought out and exciting!

Second Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Excellent image!

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

An excellent image once again!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: **Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Peak action and joy captured in this feature photo!

Second Place: **Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Nice action shot of a dog playing frisbee! Excellent.

Third Place: **Glenn Osmundson, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI**

This photo is telling a whole story!

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **David Sokol, North Shore Sunday, Peabody, MA**

Very nice image of celebration. Great angle!

Second Place: **David Sokol, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

Cute feature with news angle. Great crop too! Well done!

Third Place: **Albert O. Fischer, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Strong environment news feature.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: **Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

As always, a great eye from McGagh -- well done Marathon image.

Second Place: **Tim Jean, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

An artistic news feature photo!

*Third Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
I wonder how many months or years you have waited for this image to develop? A great eye!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Really cute moment! Well done.

Second Place: Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Nice snowy news feature photo.

Third Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Cute feature captured at this news event.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

*First Place: Glenn C. Silva,
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, Fairhaven, MA*
Excellent emotion!

*Second Place: Alyssa Stone,
Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA*
A very pensive shot!

Third Place: David Sokol, Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA
This drill seems very real! Great expressions.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

*First Place: Nicole Harnishfeger,
The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA*
A strong photo to represent an event that is difficult to cover in a single image!

Second Place: James Buck, Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Excellent image capturing the emotions in this celebration!

*Third Place: Jeanna Shepard,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
A very strong image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

*First Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA*
Excellent general news image showing the celebration of an amputee runner's at the finish line.

*Second Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Excellent emotional image!

*Third Place: Sarah Crosby,
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA*
Touching emotion-filled image.

*Honorable Mention: Carol Lollis,
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA*
Really funny general news image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Excellent peak action general news photo!

Second Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Top quality graduation image. Well done!

Third Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Excellent use of reverse angle to tie this general news image together.

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Rick Cinclair, Worcester Living,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
Strong image!

*Second Place: Glenn Callahan,
Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT*
Well done!

*Third Place: Elizabeth Brooks,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*
Strong portrait and composition.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

*First Place: David Sokol,
Swampscott Reporter, Swampscott, MA*
Excellent image!

*Second Place: Alyssa Stone,
Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA*
Great reaction!

*Third Place: David Sokol,
Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA*
Very well done!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

*First Place: Albert O. Fischer,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Excellent image!

*Second Place: Stacey Rupolo, The Local,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
Very strong image.

*Third Place: Nicole Harnishfeger,
The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA*
Great photo!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

*First Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Excellent image that captures the story through the lens!

*Second Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Who, what, where and why told through the picture! Excellent!

*Third Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Once again, very nice image that tells a story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Excellent personality image! Explains the who, what, and why.

Second Place: Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Tells us the who, what, where, and why just through the picture!

Third Place: Gary Higgins, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
A very good personality image!

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: David Sokol, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA
Very nice and funny illustration. Well thought out.

Second Place: David Sokol, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA
Creative illustration!

Third Place: Alison L. Mead, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Nice photo -- very "to-the-point".

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Excellent illustration!

Second Place: Tom Murphy, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI
Very nice illustration.

Third Place: Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Well done.

PHOTO SERIES

Weekly/Specialty Combined Class

First Place: Robin Chan, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA
Excellent photo series of the building process of the Trojan Horse.

Second Place: Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA
Very strong photo series of the triathlon!

Third Place: Emily Clark, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Well done series on dogs and their owners!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Touching series of photos to show the heartbreak title headline. Well done!

Second Place: Christine Hochkeppel, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Very nice set of images to tell the story. Nicely done!

Third Place: Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Strong set of images depicting accidents and their victims.

PHOTO STORY

Weekly/Specialty Combined Class

First Place: Ken McGagh, Watertown Tab & Press, Watertown, MA
The photographer has done a great job covering a funeral -- a story which many people would hate to think about!

Second Place: Albert O. Fisher, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Very strong visual story!

Third Place: Stacey Rupolo, The Local, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Excellent images and story!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Excellent photo story coverage! Well done.

First Place: Kristopher Radder, Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT
A touching set of images! Well done.

Second Place: Art Illman, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
This is a thorough and well-done photo story! You covered the entire event with a great eye! Well done.

Third Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
A story told well through these photos. Nice job.

Honorable Mention: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Well done images of a high-risk event.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Christine Hochkeppel, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Excellent images on a difficult story.

Second Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Nice job on this photo story!

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Specialty Publications

First Place: Jeff Curtes, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT
Great image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Amanda Sagba, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA
This is a beautiful and creative image! Very well done!

Second Place: Alyssa Stone, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Excellent capture of the fireworks at sunset.

Third Place: Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA
The photographer has a great eye to see this image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Alison Shaw, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Beautifully composed image!

*Second Place: David Sokol,
North Shore Sunday, Peabody, MA*
Lovely image of the super moon!

*Third Place: Peter Sutters,
The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA*
Beautiful image of the sunset.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

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

*Second Place: Mike Valeri,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
Very well done!

Third Place: Ben Garver, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
This is an excellent pattern image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Steve Lanava, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
This is a beautiful image! Very well done.

Second Place: Gary Higgins, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Beautiful!

Third Place: Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
A piece of art!

PORTRAIT PHOTO

Specialty Publications

*First Place: Glenn Callahan,
Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT*
This is a very excellent portrait! Very well done!

*Second Place: Sam Moore, MV Arts & Ideas,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
Well done!

*Third Place: Rick Cinclair, Worcester Living,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
Very well lit. Portrait of a champ!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

*First Place: Alyssa Stone,
Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA*
Excellent portrait of a musician!

*Second Place: David Sokol,
Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA*
Very strong portrait of a boxer.

*Third Place: David Sokol,
Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA*
A great photo of old friends!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

*First Place: Mark Lovewell,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Excellent image!

*Second Place: Jeanna Shepard,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Very strong portrait. Nice lighting.

*Third Place: Ray Ewing,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Strong portrait with strong composition.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

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

Second Place: Sean Elliot, The Day, New London, CT
Strong portrait!

*Third Place: Elaine Ezerins,
St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT*
Excellent environmental portrait!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

*First Place: Dave Roback,
The Republican, Springfield, MA*
Excellent portrait!

*Second Place: Rick Cinclair,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
Very strong portrait.

Third Place: Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA
A truly funny portrait of a frog and of the face that supports him.

SPORTS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: David Sokol, Somerville Journal, Somerville, MA
Excellent peak action soccer shot! Great image!

Second Place: Ken McGagh, Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA
Great moment captured by Ken McGaugh; this look amazing anticipation on his part! Nice job!

Third Place: Christopher Hurley, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA
Ouch! Nice action photo!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

*First Place: Peter Cirilli,
VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT*
This is not only an excellent skiing photo, it is an excellent piece of ART! Well done!

*Second Place: Timothy Johnson,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Beautiful fly fishing image!

*Third Place: Timothy Johnson,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Although I would have liked to have been able to see more of the handle to the kiteboard, this is a good image and it all works! Nice job.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

**First Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

An excellent photo of faces with an emotion-filled celebration!

**Second Place: Mike Valeri,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Very nice soccer action! Well done.

**Third Place: Tim Martin,
The Day, New London, CT**

Great lacrosse action -- both with the faces and the ball in play! Well done.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Strong shot of baseball action just before the tag! Well done!

Second Place: Ken McGagh, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
A well done celebratory image!

**Third Place: Steve Lanava,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: David Sokol, North Shore Sunday, Peabody, MA
Excellent spot news photo depicting a suspect under arrest while a cop holds a knife.

**Second Place: Robin Chan,
The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA**
Nicely done spot news photo captured the emotive faces of a hurt firefighter and those who are rescuing him.

Third Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA
Excellent image could give you chills looking at it!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Two very excellent spot news images

**Second Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**
Excellent spot news photo capturing emotion through the people's expressions and through the car crash.

**Third Place: Mike Valeri,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
Top notch on-the-scene emotion is clear in this photo. Well done!

**Third Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**
Pure emotion captured here! Excellent!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

**First Place: Jonathan Shugarts,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**
Excellent hard news image.

Second Place: Mark Garfinkel, Boston Herald, Boston, MA
An emotional hard news image! Well done.

Third Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA
This is a funny spot news image! Well done.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

INNOVATOR AWARD

Combined Class

First Place: Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
This is a wonderful use of the paper's core asset to provide its audience with historical accounts from its own archives of key incidents, issues, subjects and stories that have affected the local community. This is splendidly executed and fascinating to read. In addition, they've discovered a terrific way to monetize this effort with content marketing for local businesses and institutions that brings in revenue and adds to the overall value of the series.

Second Place: Terry Williams, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH
A really well done specialty publication that effectively taps into the burgeoning interest in sustainability, living local and healthy. They've got great growing ad support -- a testament to the value of this new idea and its excellent execution.

DIGITAL STRATEGY EXCELLENCE

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Jessica Garcia, Cecily Weisburg, Allie Baker, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH
Proof that big rewards can come from a thoughtful redesign emphasizing local content and caters to the needs of a mobile audience.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

**Hadley Barndollar,
The Exeter News-Letter, Exeter, NH**

These strong entries required digging, patience and all the tools available -- social media, phone, email, and face to face. An interesting and varied collection of work that shows her deadline skills and that she's focused on the issues of the day.

Daily Newspapers

**Aimee Chiavaroli,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

The pain of Alzheimer's and the pain of foster care were the two major pieces in this strong portfolio. Each required hours of research, face-to-face interviews and good reporting. Added to this are the impacts of Hurricane Bob 25 years later, a fire, and the closing of a college radio station which brings balance to this "rookie's" collection. Aimee is asked to write in-depth and then on deadline. She balances those quite well.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Dan Mac Alpine,
Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

Daily Newspapers

Neal Simpson
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

David Sokol,
GateHouse Media New England

Daily Newspapers

Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Specialty Publications

First Place: Providence Business News
Providence, RI

The Providence Business News has Rhode Island business covered from A to Z, and from large to small. The staff's energy and commitment make their work leap off of the pages.

Second Place: Worcester Living

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Excellent photography, compelling stories and a great sense of the community and its people make this magazine a great read.

Third Place: VT Ski & Ride Magazine

Lisa Lynn, Middlebury, VT
Interesting stories, stunning design and photography, and useful information packed into this magazine. If I skied in Vermont, I

would have to get this magazine, and would look forward to its arrival!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Mount Desert Islander

Bar Harbor, ME
The Mount Desert Islander was clearly the class of this field, in the depth and breadth and presentation of its coverage. A newsy package. One of the measures of general excellence is how much the reader would want this newspaper to be its community newspaper if he or she lived in that area. The Islander passes that test with ease and excellence.

Second Place: Andover Townsman

Bill Kirk and Staff, Andover, MA
A newsy, well-presented first page fronts a paper with an informative and fleshed-out police log; lots of space devoted to candidate-endorsement letters; and a strong classified section. An interesting feature on "Benny" and entertaining photos on the Fundapalooza page enhance this paper's entries.

Third Place: The Exeter News-Letter

Exeter, NH

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times

Vineyard Haven, MA
A triumph of good planning and comprehensive news stories. There is a good volume of news, and the editors seem to be on top of their communities.

Second Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Tops in presentation, and especially strong enterprise reporting.

Third Place: The Inquirer and Mirror,

Nantucket, MA
Colorful enterprise reporting, which was also nicely linked to the editorials with crisp writing. The reporting throughout this paper detailed the pressure points of this fragile island with a knowledgeable voice.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 25k)

First Place: Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

The Concord Monitor provides a comprehensive, well-organized package of news and feature content. The page presentation is consistently thoughtful and compelling. The in-depth work on voting trends and shortcomings in state services demonstrated a commitment to public service. The editorial pages were rigorous and informative. This is a formidable newspaper that demands attention. The website presentation and content seem consistent with the Monitor's brand as well.

Second Place: Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

The Sunday Eagle-Tribune delivers community journalism over a spectrum of topics, which makes for an interesting newspaper. The enterprise stories on the plague of discarded syringes and local apprehension over deportation policy illustrate a sharp awareness of the public agenda. The editorial pages addressed a range of local topics.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

(CONTINUED)

Third Place: Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

The Sun Journal excels at producing public service journalism built on good story-telling and informative graphics. Smart design and quality reproduction are consistent throughout the sections. The editorial pages provide a valuable community forum.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 25k+)

First Place: Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

This newspaper is unique. The layout bold, sharp, dynamic and interesting. The use of color, graphics and font offers the reader an entertaining and a very active news experience. The design commands attention making it difficult to turn any page quickly. This is a newspaper that rewards the reader with its character. As skillful the art, the paper is much, much more. The Republican American and its rich, regional editions are thick with news, features, fun and interesting boxes, summaries, lists and more. There is so much interesting information in each edition it takes far more than one session to read front to back. Quote boxes, “Must Read” sections, weekly round-ups, calendars, reader photography, public records, polls, public meetings, digests offer a deep and rich local news offering. The paper truly succeeds in connecting the reader to the community. The editorial page offers a compelling layout of smart ideas, opinion and reader commentary. The page is authoritative with an appropriate balance of text and illustrations. The Letters to the Editor section is large and offers plenty of room for diverse, community comment. Advertising is local and plentiful yet, non-intrusive nor overwhelming to news content. The paper effectively promotes the Rep-Am.com website and the website offers a well-structured page with a crisp offering of the latest news in each section, easy access to community-specific pages, good search, good advertising placement, interesting and differentiated navigation, a poll, community calendar, video, alerts and more. Overall, the Republican American is a very dynamic and unique newspaper and digital service that offers the reader an extraordinary and comprehensive package of news and information with innovative, bold and supremely surprising design elements. This newspaper has character and for all of the above it is awarded the 2018 General Excellence Award. Congratulations!

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

The Republican is a sharp, bright, colorful newspaper with a solid offering of news variety that very effectively informs and entertains the reader. The paper’s layout is excellent with a very successful balance of color, fonts, stories, photos and tid-bits of information throughout. It is an entertaining news experience with more than enough character to draw in each reader and hold their attention page after page. Each edition has extreme purpose in layout and story selection and offers an authoritative and entertaining report on the day’s news, events and community milestones. Advertising is plentiful and very nicely balanced with editorial copy. Ads are well created. The Republican readership benefits from a deeply talented and innovative digital team at MassLive. The team has a firm grasp on best practices in the digital domain and the site itself leads the way in the region. The editorial page has an authoritative layout with a strong offering of ideas and opinion. The paper, clearly, has a voice. Overall, this is a newspaper with a clear focus on and passion for its immediate and surrounding communities. There is pride, curiosity, solid news judgment and a rich professionalism on each and every page. For these reasons, the paper is awarded second place in this year’s competition. Congratulations!

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The T&G offers an excellent service to readers thanks to its depth of the news offering in each paper, strong design and use of color and graphics. Notwithstanding some centrally designed elements, there is rich, local character in its pages and an outstanding offering of local and non-local news and information. Unique and interesting features such as Military Notes and a focus on college-oriented news bond with readers. The paper’s Sports and Arts sections are particularly strong with a rich offering of local news, events and happenings. Advertising is solid and layout of creative is very well aligned with editorial. Telegram.com is a very nice companion to the newspaper. The site is rich with a very strong local news offering and offers readers a crisp, clean and easy to engage with experience. As the reader scrolls, the pages offer up some nice surprises, excellent oversized photography, calendars, events and more. The site’s overall design is very appealing, calm and pleasant. The depth of news and information is excellent and the overall experience is very entertaining. Overall, The Telegram & Gazette offers its readers a very strong news and information service. The paper has character and clear community commitment. For these reasons, the paper is awarded third place in this year’s competition. Congratulations!



NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION DISTINGUISHED JUDGES PANEL

Wayne Agner - Editor and Publisher, *The Trinity Journal*, Redding, CA

Scott Anderson - Northwestern University; former head of editorial at Chicago Tribune Interactive, former reporter and editor at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, former reporter at *The Patriot Ledger*

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

Karen Bordeleau - Former Executive Editor, *Providence Journal*

Sharon Chapman - Features Editor, *Austin American-Statesman*

Sherry Chisenhall - Editor, *Wichita (KS) Eagle*

Catherine Clabby - Sr. environmental reporter, *North Carolina Health News*

Kim Dalglish - Former VP Marketing and Specialty Publications, *The Columbia (SC) State*, *Bradenton (FL) Herald*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Oreste D'Arconte - Former Publisher, *The Sun Chronicle*

Darell Davis - VP Creative Services, *Metro Creative Graphics*

Dwayne Desaulniers - New England Media Director, *Associated Press*

Rodney Doherty - Former executive editor, *Foster's Daily Democrat*

Mike Donoghue - *Burlington Free Press*, *St. Michael's College*

Jim Foudy - Adjunct professor, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Chuck Fountain - Professor, *Northeastern University*

George Geers - Publisher, *Plaidswede Publishing Co.* Director, *New Hampshire Writers' Project*, *Journalist*

Dr. Nancy L. Green - Former VP Circulation, *Lee Enterprises* former publisher, *Courier Communications*

Alin Gregorian - Editor, *Armenian Mirror Spectator*

Larry Grimes - President, *W.B. Grimes & Co.* and *The Sports Advisory Group*

Jennifer Berry Hawes - Pulitzer prize winning journalist, *The Post and Courier*, *Charleston, SC*

Ed Henninger - Design Consultant, *Henninger Consulting*

Robert Herguth - rRporter, *Chicago Sun-Times*

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

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

Bill Kirtz - Northeastern University; former editor for the *Patriot Ledger* and publisher/editor for the *Marblehead (MA) Messenger*.

Bill Kole - *New England News* Editor, *Associated Press*

Marc Lacey - Associate Managing Editor, *The New York Times*

Robert Laska - Former President & Publisher, *Connecticut Post*

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

Larry Laughlin - Former Northern New England AP Bureau Chief; Editor of *NEFAC Report*

Len Levin - Former Copy Desk Chief, *Providence Journal*

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

Kathy Lu - enterprise editor, *The Kansas City Star*

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

Morgan McGinley - Former Editorial Page Editor, *The Day*

Lincoln McKie, Jr. - *Northeastern University*; former publisher, *Journal Transcript Newspapers*, former executive editor, *Lowell Sun*, former managing editor, *Telegram & Gazette*

Alan Mittelstaedt - Associate Professor, *University of Southern California Annenberg*

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

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

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

George Rodrigue - Editor and General Manager, *The Plain Dealer*

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

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

Justin Silverman - Executive Director, *NE First Amendment Coalition*

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

Chris Snider - Professor, *Drake University*

Jeff South - Associate Professor, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

Suzette Standring - Syndicated Columnist

George Sylvie - Associate Professor, *University of Texas at Austin*

Emily Sweeney - Reporter, *Boston Globe*

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

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

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

Maggie Walter - Professor, *University of Missouri*

Brent Walth - *University of Oregon*, *School of Journalism & Communication*

Karen Weintraub - Adjunct Professor, *Boston University*

Jon Wells - Professor, *AfroAmerican studies*, *University of Michigan*

Maryjane Wilkerson - Former Editor, *Boston Globe*

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

Carl Zimmerman - Columnist, *New York Times*