

INSIDE: COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES COMMENTS

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS



NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION



2024 Awards Results

Advertising

Advertiser Campaign

Combined Class

1st Place: Christy Lynn, Katy Foote, Staff
Addison County Independent
Hare and the Dog ad campaign
The POWER of this campaign is the sharp copywriting and the simplicity of the design. Revisiting these iconic 'brand-engrained' characters is brilliant!

2nd Place: Katy Foote, Sue Leggett, Sarah Pope
Addison County Independent
Nino's ad campaign
Nino's 'slice guy' is a great character / device to deliver comic and great information about specials & other messaging!

3rd Place: Mary Sharpe
The Inquirer and Mirror
Current Vintage
CURRENT VINTAGE's strong logo, clear design and great use of local photography makes this campaign fantastic!

Best Health Ad

Combined Class

1st Place: Kristen Braley
The Other Paper
Dorset Street Dermatology
A calming visual combined with clear, informative typography along with a solid logo make this ad a winner!

2nd Place: Christy Lynn, Sarah Pope
Addison County Independent
Porter Medical Nurses Week
A vibrant grouping of photos of nurses enhances this print ad - a celebration of Nat'l Nurses Week and community medical services!

3rd Place: Christy Lynn, Sarah Pope
Addison County Independent
ACHHH Childhood
This ad for Addison County's Home, Health & Hospice

has warm and caring text along with a great image. Nice healthcare ad!

Best Holiday Ad

Combined Class

1st Place: Christy Lynn, Elsie Parini
Addison County Independent
Bradford holiday
A wonderful Christmas lifestyle shot is the focus of this heartwarming ad, which features a shot of a kitchen as well. Winning ad from Bradford Kitchen & Bath.

2nd Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon
Ipswich Local News
Cape Ann Cannabis
Attention-grabbing HalloWEED ad for Cape Ann Cannabis is fun, lively and great headline!

3rd Place: Kristen Braley
News & Citizen
Denton Auto
Small but powerful. Clear, informational and very cute holiday ad!

Best Idea for Generating Revenue

Combined Class

1st Place: Jenna Hunsinger, Christy Lynn, staff
Addison County Independent
Independent Digital Marketing
Addison Independent's Digital Marketing campaign is striking visually, typographically and informationally. Great group of ads and services!

2nd Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik
The Inquirer and Mirror
Holiday Sweepstakes - 31 Days of Gift Cards
The Inquirer and Mirror's 31 Days Holiday Sweepstakes is festive, local and fun. The interactivity of daily reveals makes it great!

3rd Place: George Clondas
The Falmouth Enterprise
On Cape Magazine Holiday Songbook
On Cape Magazine's Songbook is fronted by a beautiful and traditional holiday scene. Packed with nice display ads and songs, it's a keeper and great to have around at the holidays.

Local Display Ad (Black & White)

Combined Class

1st Place: Elsie Parini

Addison County Independent

Addy Indy Spectacle

The simplicity of the design grabs your attention in this ad. Smartly pairs and promotes the newspaper's coverage and donation appeal.

2nd Place: Katerina H Werth

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Family Dentistry

Eye-catching ad with delightful photo.

2nd Place: Kristen Braley

News & Citizen

Stowe Family Dentistry

Attractive ad that packs a lot of useful info and call to action in a small space.

3rd Place: Ashley Carter

The Ellsworth American

Celebrating Mark Politte

Well designed celebratory ad.

Local Display Ad (Color)

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Megan Connor-Thomas

The Republican

Passport Ad

Great things come in small packages! This little ad is clear, concise, well-designed and attractive!

2nd Place: Greg Douglas

The Republican

Frigo's Gourmet Foods

Enticing food photography drives this appealing gourmet foods ad! Nice design, clear headline & contact info.

3rd Place: Greg Douglas

The Republican

Pete's Sweets

Strong brand photos and fantastic community service story! Nicely done ad with all pertinent information clearly shown.

Local Display Ad (Color)

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Katerina H Werth

Stowe Reporter

STR Ordinance

This STRONG community-focused ad is well-designed. Clear, informational, while spotlighting an issue and highlighting the community response.

2nd Place: Chausa Tra

Mount Desert Islander

Gallery on the Green Festival

Gallery on the Green's ad focuses on their art festival and very appropriately features some great images from their exhibit. Modern, clean and effective.

3rd Place: Kristen Braley

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Communication

An engaging sports fan image drives this well-done ad. Fun, with a clear offer and pertinent info.

Local Display Ad (Color)

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Jan Kenney

Williston Observer

Williston Hot Yoga - Time to Grow Wings

Inventing and eye-catching, this local color display ad from Williston Hot Yoga is a winner! Movement from image directs the viewer to the headline & offer!! Great!

2nd Place: Katy Foote, Sue Leggett

Addison County Independent

OC Used Book Profiles

This engaging and local photo of the store and its owners is great!

Perfect local ad to connect the community with the power of a local bookstore. Great logo too!

3rd Place: Katerina H Werth

News & Citizen

Coming Together

This well-done ad for an upcoming summit for addiction and recovery information conveys its subject matter calmly and with a hopeful image. Nice type, clear goals and attractive sponsor area.

Local Online Ad

Combined Class

1st Place: Christy Lynn, staff

Addison County Independent

Mahaney PAS

Elegant ads, simply designed, along with beautiful photos.

This is a stunning series.

2nd Place: Heather Eriole

The Ellsworth American

Eye Candy Ellsworth

This ad was eye candy! Vintage design with retro lightbox typography was brilliant!

3rd Place: Heather Eriole

Mount Desert Islander

New Sweden Midsommar Festival

Cute, fun design with effective results.

Automotive Display Ad

Combined Class

1st Place: Ashley Carter

Mount Desert Islander

Stanley Subaru Maine Ocean Fest

Wonderful, fun auto banner ad! Lively background and art, highlighting a local event. Clear logo, text and info! A winner!

2nd Place: Jorgen Taylor

The Republican

Artioli Dodge Spooktacular Ad

BOLD & graphic Halloween auto ad with featured merchandise shown in well-done layout! Nice one!

3rd Place: Ashley Carter

The Ellsworth American

Stanley Subaru Moo-Moo Subaru

Another FUN banner ad from Stanley Subaru - packed with information w/o being overwhelming. Good use of QR code.

Real Estate Display Ad

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Kristen Braley

Stowe Reporter

Red Barn

Red Barn Realty's display ad is well-presented. Strong

logo, good design & clear typography. Great ad!

2nd Place: Kristen Braley

The Other Paper

Gerry R - RE

Logo atop this ad brings you right into the attractive listing presented with bulleted & pertinent text below. Nice job.

3rd Place: Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

Jordan Real Estate

Impressive photo property listing dominates this ad. Perfect for a real estate ad! Nice interior views and enticing description! Good layout.

Real Estate Display Ad

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Ingrid Miles

2nd Place: Christy Lynn, Katy Foote, Sue Leggett

Addison County Independent

Berkshire Hathaway

Most Creative Use of Small Print Space

Combined Class

1st Place: Kristen Braley

Stowe Reporter

Hannon

A ton of information in a well-designed small space ad! Includes, logo, tagline...even event listings! Very effective use of space.

2nd Place: Megan Connor-Thomas

The Republican

Commercial Cleaning Business for sale ad

Great use of space in this small space print ad. Packs a lot of pertinent information into a clear and effective ad.

3rd Place: Katy Foote, Elsie Parini

Addison County Independent

Woofpack

Fun, engaging photo tops this small space ad and works well!

Niche Publication

Combined Class

1st Place: Jane McTeigue, Susie Middleton

Vineyard Gazette

Island Guide 2024

Elegant simplicity as a print publication. The Martha's Vineyard 2024 Island Guide is a gorgeous magazine, with sumptuous photography, great information and appealing display ads! A winner!

2nd Place: Michelle Johnson

The Republican

Dream Destinations Travel Guide- Spring Summer Edition
DREAM Destinations & Travel Show, Spring & Summer 2024 Guide is amazing. Camping, beaches, historic sites, road trips - a fantastic array of options, great editorial and vibrant ads throughout. Nice job!

3rd Place: Michelle Johnson

The Republican

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle 2024

Well-designed with a great cover and interior pages, this incredibly useful guide can be referred to over and over. The design and content of this publication really heightens the game for a local guide.

Online/Virtual Events

Combined Class

1st Place: Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

Halloween pet Contest

Eye-catching ads, fun event!

Pure Advertising Niche Publication

Combined Class

1st Place: Katerina H Werth, Greg Popa

Stowe Reporter

Stowe/Green Mountain Wedding

Green Mountain Weddings has a fun, engaging cover...is well-designed throughout, with great feature pieces and informational pages! Packed with nice display ads.

Winner!

2nd Place: McKinley Sanders

Vineyard Gazette

Holiday Catalog

2023's Holiday Catalog from Vineyard Gazette has an attractive cover and is a great vehicle for focusing on local

retail & eateries!

3rd Place: George Clondas

The Falmouth Enterprise

On Cape Magazine Dining Guide

On Cape's Magazine Dining Guide is a great keeper for year 'round reference! Full of great display ads and menus from local restaurants!

Special Section / Advertising Supplement

Combined Class

1st Place: Addy Indy Staff

Addison County Independent

Early Childhood Guide

This wonderfully-designed EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE half tab is a winner! Carrying the cover image throughout the publication for a design device worked into editorial is successful, and this section is packed with great info!

2nd Place: Breeze Sales Staff

Valley Breeze

Life and Legacy

A vital and important topic is given a highly-professional design and editorial treatment with this LIFE & LEGACY section. Great job!

3rd Place: McKinley Sanders

Vineyard Gazette

Juneteenth 2024

This JUNETEENTH JUBILEE section is vibrant, cleanly designed with amazing display ads and good page design throughout!

Themed Multiple Advertiser Page(s)

Combined Class

1st Place: Monica Brady-Myerov, Jared Maciel

Vineyard Gazette

Welcome Guide Treasure Map

Fun. Interactive. Community and advertiser-oriented....this Welcome Guide / Treasure Hunt is fantastic.

Vineyard Gazette Media Group has created a thorough program for this great Themed Multi-Advertiser concept!

2nd Place: Christy, Elsie, Jenna, Katy, Tom

Addison County Independent

Midd Night Stroll pages

Festive, well-designed spread with nicely-placed advertiser blocks & clear, information merchant listings, info.

3rd Place: Staff

The Ellsworth American

Gallery Guide

Attractive and appealing Gallery Guide with great map and guide and well-done small space advertiser spaces.

Best Sponsored Content

Combined Class

1st Place: Nicole Varter, Mary Sharpe, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

A Guide to the Perfect Nantucket Beach Day

First place goes to Nantucket Today for generating an additional \$15k in revenue for this issue with paid promotional content. The guide to the perfect nantucket beach day is a service to both the readers and the island's local businesses.

Advertising Sales Media Kit

Combined Class

1st Place: Michelle Johnson

The Republican

The Republican Commercial Printing

The appealing design and beautiful colors make this commercial printing media kit effective. Nicely done!

Audience Building Promotion

Combined Class

1st Place: Mary Sharpe, Robert Saurer, Peter Halik

The Inquirer and Mirror

GET OFF THE ROCK

Fantastic contest giving away three trips to devoted readers! Impressive!

Contests

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

4393 - Readers' Choice Awards

2nd Place: Jenna Hunsinger, staff

Addison County Independent

Valentine's Contest

Subscriber Retention Program

Combined Class

1st Place: Tyler Amaral

The Falmouth Enterprise

Plastic Reduction Initiative

Not your typical subscriber retention program. The Enterprise appealed to consumers' desire to cut back on plastic bags, and subscribers were willing to pay for their tubes, which also serve as ongoing marketing for the newspaper.

Subscription Promotion

Combined Class

1st Place: Jane McTeigue

Vineyard Gazette

Supporting the Island Food Pantry

Vineyard Gazette subscription promotion offering is a winner for its commitment to community. A donation to the local food pantry for all new subscribers highlights the true meaning of a community newspaper. Kudos.

2nd Place: Robert Saurer

The Inquirer and Mirror

I&M News APP

Simple, clear, well-designed ad highlights app use for I&M! Great subscription benefit and a QR code for immediate subscriber info!

3rd Place: Elsie Parini, staff

Addison County Independent

Addy Indy Holiday Gift Subscriptions

Clever, attractive benefits subscription ad with coupon submission cut-outs is fantastic.

Nice job, Addison County Independent!

Business Innovation

Combined Class

1st Place: Angelo, Christy, Elsie and staff

Addison County Independent

ADDY ALL-STARS

The Addy All-stars program is a fantastic initiative to increase support and revenue for the newspaper. We applaud the publication's bold approach and willingness to be transparent about the cost of producing news. The

special section introduces every team member and helps readers understand the challenges with an inclusive spirit.

Events

Combined Class

1st Place: Monica Brady-Myerov, Kharma Finley-Wallace
Vineyard Gazette
Juneteenth 2024

Vineyard Gazette's brilliantly-produced JUNETEENTH holiday celebration is a winner. With its gorgeous program, insert for a gospel brunch, etc....it's so well branded! A very successful and appealing event effort!

2nd Place: Staff

The Republican

Reader Raves Winners Event

READER'S RAVES.....an impressive event program with great common thread of well-designed awards, programs and events is fantastic and successful in scope. 12th year of a great happening!

3rd Place: Staff

The Eagle-Tribune

Clear & well-designed with a great image at the bottom.....West Newbury's Garden Club Plant Sale is very informative and attractive.

Excellence in Revenue Collaboration and Partnerships

Combined Class

1st Place: Christy Lynn, Elsie Parini

Addison County Independent

THT Auction insert

Excellent win-win collaboration between the local newspaper and local theater.

Advertising Manager of the Year

Combined Class

1st Place: Jenna Hunsinger

Addison County Independent

Jenna Hunsinger is our golden ticket!

Advertising General Excellence

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

Mount Desert Islander

Mount Desert Islander's crisp layout, well-designed pages, interesting headers and sections combine with pertinent local advertising and provide the perfect vehicle for the ads!

2nd Place: Staff

The Ellsworth American

The Ellsworth American is lively, with bright and colorful ads, shown within a well-done graphic newspaper layout. Fun, original sections and great ads throughout.

3rd Place: Staff

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Reporter is solid all around!

From its great graphic masthead to its sturdy layout, packed with local information, ads and editorial.

Best Ad Designer

Combined Class

1st Place: Elsie Lynn Parini

Addison County Independent

Elsie's da bomb!

Outstanding. Excellent. Conceptual. Elsie's work is wonderful. Amazing video work as well as print standouts. Congratulations!

2nd Place: Kristen Aiton Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

ILN Designer

Kristen's work is fantastic. Clearly executed ads with lots of information organized really well. Vibrant style, great designer.

3rd Place: Sarah Pope

Addison County Independent

Sarah's stupendous

Sarah's work is varied and very well-done. Typography is solid while being cool and experimental.

College Division

Editorial

College Newspapers

1st Place: Equinox Staff

The Equinox

Transparency issues at PSU

In concise, restrained language, the editors took on the formidable task of criticizing a group made up of their own classmates – not an easy thing to do. Solid, impressive, good analysis.

2nd Place: Editorial Staff

The Gatepost

Does the 'Refer a Ram' program promote equity?

This editorial takes a poke at a new grant program ordained by the college administration, calling it inequitable. Their description justifies their stance. Well written and convincing.

3rd Place: The Editorial Board

The Daily Campus

Connecticut is failing higher education

Looking beyond their environs, the editors admirably tackle a statewide problem: reduced aid for higher education. Well-written, makes its points clearly.

Feature Story

College Newspapers

1st Place: Zoe MacDiarmid

Huntington News

Amid pro-Palestine protests, alumni reflect on activism during Vietnam War

A sign of a good feature story is when an editor reads it and asks themselves, "What has no one else done this?" In hindsight, drawing connections between the Vietnam and Gaza protests seems obvious, but no one's really gone there, and certainly not to this degree. Just a great read from beginning to end.

2nd Place: Cameron Levasseur

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

'I felt kind of helpless': Quinnipiac students from Maine reflect on Lewiston mass shooting

Excellent work, by any standard. The only way it could be improved is to step back a bit from the "newsiness," and lean into really capturing the emotions. Journalistic detachment is important, but when the story is about emotions, you want to make the reader really feel it.

3rd Place: Charlotte King

The Equinox

Keene State student co-writes young adult novel

This was a very well done feature that kept the student's writing front and center, even when the story introduced other voices. Very well-focused and vivid.

3rd Place: Margaret Corona

The Daily Free Press

Meet the jolly man behind the designer beard

This story really made me fall in love with "Santa," and the way the story flowed between the character and the person was well-handled. Just an all around fun read.

3rd Place: Alex Strand

The Vermont CYNIC

A portrait of student activism on campus since Oct. 7

An excellent story, but I would have liked to have learned more about individuals and their motivations. The politics of the Israel-Gaza conflict are everywhere, and I feel this story could have deepened in the places that were unique to the campus.

Front Page

College Newspapers

1st Place: Nathan Hope

The Equinox

Vol. 78, Issue #2

Excellent impact with the lead photo and headline. Watch the small details like the folio type in the photo.

2nd Place: Lillian Frank, Mary Henthorn, Andy Ton

The Bowdoin Orient

Bowdoin Orient Issue 19 Front Page

Clean and easy to read/view. Lead art needs to be packaged with the winter storm story?

3rd Place: Julz Levesque, Kenai Huerth, Elizabeth Hildebrandt

USM Free Press

Best Front page

Good impact with the lead headline/photo package.

Display quotes add impact to the page.

Graphic Illustration

College Newspapers

1st Place: Aidan Urnezis

The Equinox

Deadline should not be deadset

Headline Writing

College Newspapers

1st Place: Orion Corbin

The Equinox

My big fat Greek Week

In-depth Reporting

College Newspapers

1st Place: Eli Curwin, Annika Sunkara, Emily Spatz

Huntington News

Campus Turned Processing Area

This massive reporting effort by three Northeastern students provides needed accountability on the university's decision to arrest 98 at an anti-war encampment. The entire team at The Huntington News showed that reporting

depth can be achieved in both short (69 published web updates over two days) and long form. The report by Annika Sunkara, Eli Curwin and Emily Spatz deserves to stand as the definitive account of this difficult passage in the school's history, thanks to their deep interviewing, eye for detail, and plain old shoe leather reporting.

2nd Place: Cat Murphy

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

What happened to TK?

Quinnipiac Chronicle reporter Cat Murphy had immediate reason to doubt her university's four-sentence statement wishing the women's lacrosse coach well "in her future endeavors" -- in a different job. Through dogged reporting, Murphy helped her campus understand that the coach had not inappropriately sent an injured player onto the field, as the school had suggested. Murphy overcame many reporting obstacles, guided by terrific sourcing and use of documents.

3rd Place: Nathan Hope, Tim Bruns

The Equinox

Hurdles in training

Keene State reporters Tim Bruns and Nathan Hope revisited an old hope for track and field athletes on the small New Hampshire campus. Why do they practice at the local high school? What happened to all the talk of a training facility? They found that a big project ran aground on budget problems. Their straightforward reporting kept faith with student athletes who often do not get straight answers from administrators.

Multimedia Reporting

College Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

The Vermont CYNIC

Live Updates: Students hold encampment for divestment on Andrew Harris Commons

The students did a great job mobilizing quickly to cover this breaking news at a neighboring university. They stuck with it for 10 days providing daily live online updates and photo gallery's. Excellent use of social media, especially Instagram, to increase engagement on the coverage.

2nd Place: Zachary Keenan, Charlotte King

The Equinox

KSC artist profiles

The quality of the videos was great but would have liked to see more integration between the videos and the website coverage.

News Story

College Newspapers

1st Place: Cat Murphy

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Quinnipiac's \$48 million hedge fund portfolio

Can't wait to see where Cat Murphy lands when her professional journalism career begins. She is a star in the making. She tells this story so naturally, so informationally, and so simply but compellingly. Chock full of all the right information; that is, all questions answered... and then some. This fascinating and revealing story is easy to understand and follow despite the intricacies of the topic. Everything should be explained so effectively. The story features wonderful context, too. For example: Because Quinnipiac's finances are shrouded in mystery, the history of the university's \$48.4 million hedge fund portfolio — today worth what 873 students pay in annual tuition and fees — is murky at best. Gotta love that. Kudos not only to this talented writer/reporter but to the paper for uncovering this story and, with ease, sharp writing and shrewd editing, making it very clear why it matters.

2nd Place: Cat Murphy

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

What happened to TK?

There is a thoroughness and fullness to this report that leaves the reader, despite not having all the answers, feeling informed to come down on a side as it relates to what likely happened. The reporting is exhaustive, and the narrative and timeline are wonderfully and logically presented. This is another instance of high-level news writing of the quality that any established daily publication would appreciate. The topic would be easy to get lost in and for the report or editor's bias to show through, even if slightly. But that is not the case here. It's objective, it's balanced, it's carefully constructed, it's on the side of the reader, and nothing compromises its readability. That is an award-winning combination.

3rd Place: Zoe MacDiarmid, Joseph Brant

Huntington News

Northeastern graduate student workers overwhelmingly win union certification after 8-year delay

Bargaining, contracts, unions, labor, organizing ... stories of this ilk can quickly get confusing and bogged down in the murky language of unionizing. Not here. This story sticks to the basic elements of the effort, the work that went into it, the long history, and not forgetting to carefully fold in the important national context. The layers are revealed perfectly and unrushed. Not a lot of wasted words. Easy to follow ... easy to understand. Small details that deliver a big impact (to wit: chalk messages across campus). Not overly long, the story packs a considerable punch. And it delivers good quotes, from both sides, including the ending salvo ... at least for now. Makes me want to look forward to the first follow-up.

Opinion Page

College Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

The New Englander

The New Englander Opinion

The editorial in support of student journalists from another university who were arrested during campus protests takes a strong position while explaining to readers why press freedom is important.

2nd Place: Staff

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Car-dependent suburbia has America spinning its wheels. A national problem is made relevant to Q students. An editorial or column can't cover every angle, but I would have liked a mention of air pollution from cars.

3rd Place: Kim Zappala

NECC Observer

Opinion section

A solid editorial explaining how national politics can affect students, and why they should care.

Arts & Entertainment Page or Section

College Newspapers

1st Place: Editor Shaun Hood & Observer Correspondents
NECC Observer
Arts and Entertainment section

2nd Place: John Schubert
The Bowdoin Orient
Bowdoin Orient Arts and Entertainment Section

3rd Place: Cammie Breuer, Jared Fairfield, Mykayla Hoggard
USM Free Press
Best Arts & Entertainment Section.

Special Section or Editorial Supplement

College Newspapers

1st Place: Equinox Staff
The Equinox
Radiohead Special Section

Sports Game Story

College Newspapers

1st Place: Ethan Hurwitz
The Quinnipiac Chronicle
Saint Peter's Peacocks' postseason buzzer beater over Quinnipiac, second by second
Good idea using the seconds to take the reader through the key point in the game. Nice detail.

2nd Place: Adam Levine
The Gatepost
Women's basketball wins conference title in record-breaking season
Good work talking to several players. Well organized.

3rd Place: Connor Sargeant
The Daily Campus
UConn dances back to second straight National Championship with 86-72 win over Crimson Tide
Nice job capturing all of the key moments in the big game.

Sports Story

College Newspapers

1st Place: Mara Mellits
The Daily Free Press
Are cheerleading and dance sports? Not at BU
Eye-opening contrast between how BU treats its programs compared to the cheerleading and dance programs. Great lede with specifics putting the stark differences in treatment right up front. The details on how other colleges treat its teams down to uniforms and food drive home the point of this story.

2nd Place: Ethan Hurwitz
The Quinnipiac Chronicle
Three titles, a fraction of the recognition
Strong story of a championship program ignored by school officials based on a technicality.

A bit wordy, quotes could be tighter and paraphrasing in some parts could help punch up quotes. Still very eye-opening dismissal of a program's successes.

3rd Place: Cameron Levasseur, Ethan Hurwitz
The Quinnipiac Chronicle
Former QU hockey player finds clarity in recovery from the sport's lasting impact on the brain
Great color, detail, voices and the specifics on CTE reporting is well-told. Great use of photos, quotes, and subheads breaking up the story seamlessly.

Best Video

College Newspapers

1st Place: Jack Muscatello
The Quinnipiac Chronicle
A look inside the University of the Future
This video offers a well-researched, high-production exploration of an important and timely topic. It effectively combines expert insights, engaging visuals, and a structured narrative to inform and captivate the audience.

2nd Place: Zachary Keenan
The Equinox
The haunting of Huntress
The storytelling in this piece is particularly strong,

blending historical context with personal accounts to create an immersive experience. The production is well-executed, making it engaging for a broad audience.

3rd Place: Jack Muscatello, Peyton McKenzie, A.J. Gugliotta

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

Apple Vision Pro: A student's perspective using Apple's first 'Spatial Computer'

This video provides a unique, firsthand look at emerging technology, making it highly relevant to students and tech enthusiasts. The production quality is solid, and the storytelling effectively conveys the potential impact of spatial computing.

Online News Site

College Newspapers

1st Place: The Vermont Cynic

The Vermont CYNIC

The Vermont Cynic

The Vermont Cynic excels with high-quality content that is timely and relevant to its audience. The homepage is visually appealing, with a clean layout, engaging headlines, and well-used photos and graphics. Navigation is intuitive, making it easy for readers to explore the site. Integration of links and advertising is seamless, and the overall usability and value to its audience are top-notch.

2nd Place: Arielle Rabinovich

Huntington News

The Huntington News

The Huntington News offers a professional and content-rich experience. The site is well-organized, with strong navigation and a clear hierarchy of information. It uses visuals effectively and includes links to related content, enhancing usability. While the design is solid, it could benefit from slightly more dynamic presentation to better engage readers.

3rd Place: Bowdoin Orient Staff

The Bowdoin Orient

Bowdoin Orient Website

Bowdoin Orient stands out for its strong editorial content and ease of navigation. The site offers a straightforward layout that prioritizes readability and usability. However, it

lacks the visual dynamism of the top entries and would benefit from a more modern design and greater integration of multimedia elements.

Feature Photo

College Newspapers

1st Place: Nicole Dumont

The Equinox

Audiences amused by the 'Metromaniacs'

A visually stunning and dramatic image that captures the essence of theatrical performance. The subject's expressive face, rich costume details, and dynamic lighting create an emotionally compelling and immersive moment.

2nd Place: Maddison Behringer

The Gatepost

Cosmic connections!

A well composed image that encapsulates the shared wonder of the eclipse. The positioning of the subjects, all looking upward in anticipation, adds depth and energy, making this a captivating and memorable shot.

3rd Place: Maddison Behringer

The Gatepost

Saying 'good-pie' to another year

A humorous and lively capture of an unusual tradition. The whipped cream-covered subjects, joyful expressions, and strong composition make this an engaging photo that perfectly conveys the spirit of the event.

Photo Series

College Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

Huntington News

One week later: Scenes from the Centennial Common encampment

This photo series was the strongest photojournalism effort of the entries. It showed a dedication to the story and that was appreciated. I could tell what the story was before reading any captions.

2nd Place: Alex Strand

The Vermont CYNIC

Eclipse on campus: how students celebrated a once in a

lifetime event

This essay was also a great effort in photojournalism in a way to tell a story. It could have been tightened up with an edit, but appreciated the use of different angles and focal lengths.

3rd Place: Adrien Gobin
The Gatepost
Celebratory Championship

Sports Photo

College Newspapers

1st Place: Tripp Menhall
The Quinnipiac Chronicle
Quinnipiac men's hockey's loss to BC
The ability to show layering in an emotional photograph is always important. What made this image rise was just that. Many images were on dimensional in this category.

Spot News Photo

College Newspapers

1st Place: JIASHAN ZHENG
The Daily Free Press
Protester arrested at pro-Palestine rally

College Rising Star

College Newspapers

1st Place: Mara Mellits
The Daily Free Press
Mara Mellits College Rising Star

Top College Journalist

College Newspapers

1st Place: Cat Murphy
The Quinnipiac Chronicle
Cat Murphy

New England College Newspaper of the Year

College Newspapers

1st Place: Staff
The Quinnipiac Chronicle



2nd Place: Staff
The Bowdoin Orient



3rd Place: Staff
USM The Free Press



Professional Editorial

Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy

Republican-American

Artist Outside the Lines

This could have been a simple interview with an artist. But the writing jettisoned into first place. It was poetic, it was lyrical, it was outstanding. Such keen observations of the artist's work as well as his surroundings make this a pleasure to read!

2nd Place: Steve Pfarrer

Daily Hampshire Gazette

The Iron Horse Rides Again

A wonderfully complete story of a venerable music hall that makes this judge want to take a trip to Northampton. This story is both forward-looking and a glance into the past. Fingers crossed that The Iron Horse rides into the future.

3rd Place: Julia Ann Weekes

New Hampshire Union Leader

Cow cuddling

Who could resist a cow cuddle now and again? The personal touch as the author contemplates the proper attire drew me in right away. The lead photo is spectacular and probably cost the photographer a sweatshirt or two!

Arts & Entertainment Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Kevin Slane

Boston.com

Boston Calling 2024 review: The best and worst moments of the festival

A well-deserved first place for this complete, entertaining and insightful overview of Boston Calling. Interspersed with videos and other social media posts, the review has all the basic info plus some fun, quirky takes on concession stands and available merch. This self-described "unconventional review" was a fun read.

2nd Place: Nick O'Malley

MassLive

'I want to do grimy Worcester beer.' Welcome to the weirdest brewery in Mass.

A story about a "weird, but a good weird" brewery is in

itself an eye-catcher. But the lively, engaging writing of this piece matches the quiriness and flavor of Odd by Worcester. Anyone who reads this story will be challenged not to visit and sample some of this grimy Worcester beer.

3rd Place: Bhaamati Borkhetaria

CommonWealth Beacon

Not easy turning artists into a political force on Beacon Hill

This story shines an important light on a modern-day dilemma not often considered when thinking about support for the arts. It's a new twist on the starving artists syndrome and the need to keep creating/performing while also advocating for public funding. This is the most serious entry in this category but no less impactful.

Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Alana Chernila

The B

"The Call of Tanglewood," page 44 (The B, Issue 7)

Who can resist the "call of the great lawn"? This is an enchanting piece that completely transforms the reader to a beautiful summer evening under the stars at Tanglewood. The descriptive writing and observations of other visitors makes the column thoroughly enjoyable to read and reminds this judge she is overdue for a visit. The helpful hints are an added bonus.

2nd Place: Richard Duckett

Worcester Magazine

History Unveiled

An informative piece of writing about some Black Americans who have secured their place in history. The interview with the artist who felt she was chosen by her deceased subjects to paint their portraits was an added dimension.

3rd Place: Eric Casey

Worcester Business Journal

Final act?

A very timely, well-researched story on finding new uses for old theaters. I enjoyed reading about the past entertainment offerings as well as the architectural significance. Other communities would be well-served to do a similar piece.

Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Abby Remer

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Leo Frame bears 'witness to Black consciousness'

Excellent work by Abby Remer. She does a wonderful job of describing the images Leo Frame captured with his camera during the 1970s.

2nd Place: Avalon Styles-Ashley

Stowe Reporter

Sculpted

Great profile of a local sculptor. Nicely done!

3rd Place: Kris McGinn

The Manchester Cricket

Who's New in Food on Cape Ann?

People love checking out new restaurants, and this piece serves as a helpful guide to folks seeking new dining experiences on the North Shore.

3rd Place: Kris McGinn and Erika Brown

The Manchester Cricket

A Cut Above: Celebrating Musical Roots on Cape Ann

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this in-depth coverage about the local music scene in Gloucester. I had no idea that the Beastie Boys spent time there!

Arts & Entertainment Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Chelsea Edgar

Seven Days

Circus of Life

This well-written, thoroughly-reported piece was a joy to read. Kudos to Chelsea Edgar for capturing so many wonderful details while providing an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at a beloved institution and the man who created it.

2nd Place: Louisa Hufstader

Vineyard Gazette

50 Years Ago, Jaws Came to the Vineyard After Canceled Nantucket Ferry

This well-crafted story sheds new light on the movie "Jaws" that was filmed on the Vineyard 50 years ago.

Louisa Hufstader dug up plenty of interesting tidbits about the production of the film that made this a very entertaining read from start to finish.

3rd Place: Laura Colantonio

Valley Breeze

Santa's summer school

A quirky, fun piece by Laura Colantonio about an offbeat topic (Santa Camp?) that was enjoyable to read and really captured the spirit of the people who portray St. Nick. Nicely done!

Arts & Entertainment Section

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Culture Section

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Landscapes, April 27, 2024

3rd Place: Mike Chaiken and staff

Republican-American

Weekend, May 16, 2024

Arts & Entertainment Section

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: David Plath

The Martha's Vineyard Times

August 10, 2023 MVTimes Arts and

Entertainment/Calendar Section

The MVTimes Arts and Entertainment/Calendar Section is spectacular.

2nd Place: Elsie Parini and Staff

Addison County Independent

Addison Independent A+L March 28, 2024 Arts and Entertainment Section

2nd Place: Paul Sullivan, John D'Addario, Susan Abbott

Provincetown Independent

Arts & Minds Section, Provincetown Independent, July 4, 2024

3rd Place: Joanne Briana-Gartner

The Falmouth Enterprise

A&E Section 120823

Best Niche Publication

Combined Class

1st Place: Lisa Lynn, David Pollard

VT Ski + Ride

VT SKI + RIDE

The cover photos for all four quarterly magazines set the tone for the content within. The crisp, well-executed double truck layouts are impressive, featuring excellent photography and beautiful typography. The advertisement designs are particularly well-crafted, and the selection of stories is well-balanced, which helps engage the reader effectively.

2nd Place: Greg Popa

Stowe Reporter

Stowe Magazine

Having previously reviewed several publications from Stowe, I had high expectations for this magazine, and it did not disappoint. I was impressed by its quality across the board, including a diverse range of content, as well as the design, photography, and illustrations. In particular, this magazine is rich in service journalism—providing genuinely useful information for anyone traveling to Stowe, whether for a day or a lifetime. It serves as an excellent resource not only for visitors but also for locals.

The design, typography, and layouts in the display ads are outstanding.

3rd Place: Seven Days Staff

Seven Days

Seven Daysies 2024: The Locals' Guide to Vermont

The Seven Daisies presents an interesting approach by packaging a "Best of" theme for a magazine. I enjoyed it; it feels fresh and unique, breaking away from the conventional formats we often see. I appreciate how they only include the web addresses for finding the winners rather than addresses and phone numbers. Excellent photography, design and layout. I couldn't put it down!

Best Solutions Journalism Project

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

The Eagle-Tribune

Dealing with Dementia

A tremendous service to the community. Well sourced reporting with valuable resources.

2nd Place: Tracey Rauh, Christian Wade, Katelyn Sahagian

The Eagle-Tribune

Suicide Awareness project

3rd Place: Colin Flanders, Kevin McCallum

Seven Days

Vermont's Local News Publishers Are Endangered. Can They Be Saved?

Best Infographic on Website

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Erin Petenko

VT Digger.org

Historic rainfall

2nd Place: Dave Eisenstadter

MassLive

Population change in Mass. between 2020 and 2023

3rd Place: Meredith Perri, Karen Guregian

MassLive

QBs who started their rookie season vs. QBs who started after their rookie season

Best Website Home Page

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Homepage

Boston.com stands out for its clean, visually appealing layout that balances strong headlines with eye-catching supporting images. The homepage seamlessly integrates calls-to-action with clear navigation and a user-friendly experience. The content mix is engaging, with timely news, features, and local interest stories are easily accessible. Social media integration is subtle yet effective, and the advertising is well-placed. Boston.com delivers an outstanding digital equivalent of the newspaper.

2nd Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive homepage

MassLive offers a strong homepage with compelling headlines and a good variety of news and features. The layout is slightly more cluttered than others, making navigation a bit less intuitive. However, the site effectively integrates social media and advertising without overwhelming the content. MassLive's homepage excels in delivering a robust news experience with a local focus.

3rd Place: Jason Graziadei & Dative

Nantucket Current

Nantucket Current's homepage has a clean, minimalist design that reflects the local community it serves. While the site is visually appealing and easy to navigate, it offers less depth in terms of content variety compared to the other entries. The headlines and images are strong.

Best Website Home Page

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

Vineyard Gazette

vineyardgazette.com

Vineyard Gazette delivers a homepage that feels equivalent to its high-quality print front page. Headlines and sub-headlines are clear and engaging, paired with striking visuals that draw the reader in. The navigation is intuitive, and the overall layout balances content and advertising seamlessly. While social media integration is subtle, the user experience is excellent, making it the top choice.

2nd Place: PBN Staff

Providence Business News

PBN Homepage

The PBN homepage offers a professional, news-rich design with well-crafted headlines and clear calls-to-action. It balances advertising integration well without overwhelming the content. The navigation is straightforward.

3rd Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

www.ack.net

The Inquirer and Mirror has strong local focus and relevant content.

Business Page or Section

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Business Journal

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Business Insider & Careers Nov. 11, 2023

Business Page or Section

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Steve Fuller and David Fickett

The Ellsworth American

Overview

2nd Place: Marin Howell

Addison County Independent

Bristol lumber mill hurt by changing times

Business/Economic Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 13,000

1st Place: James Rinker

The Keene Sentinel

Tractor Supply Co., heralded for DEI work, eliminates initiatives amid backlash

James Rinker's national-caliber business report on Tractor Supply gives readers all the facts, in a squarely balanced yet hard-hitting narrative that compels read to the end, and then leaves them with something much bigger than the national retailer something to think about.

2nd Place: David R. Smith

The Patriot Ledger

Hornstra: A changing business

This deep dive series is well crafted and paced, with great accompanying images that give readers both familiar with the trajectory of this revitalization of this landmark agricultural destination - and those unfamiliar - with the comprehensive, well-sourced background they need to be well informed.

3rd Place: Chris Helms

The Enterprise

Meatball madness: Italian Kitchen cranks out more than 60,000 of them each December

Chris Helms delivers an informative report on this familiar local business that is also fun to read. He captures the energy of this multi-generational business that thrives on a critical and popular seasonal offering that may not be fancy - but is clearly a key culinary player in its market.

Business/Economic Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Roberta Baker

New Hampshire Union Leader

Historic Horse Racing Gallops at a Derby Pace

Reporter Roberta Baker did an excellent job of explaining the pros and cons of historic horse racing slot machines

and how they are impacting New Hampshire. Good range of voices and well written. Bravo!

2nd Place: Jim Kinney

The Republican

MGM: Transformative or disappointing?

Jim Kinney's in-depth look at the MGM Casino project in Springfield, Mass. and its impact, both positive and negative, was insightful. Lots of good reporting here.

3rd Place: Jane Kaufman

The Berkshire Eagle

Farmers Markets

Reporter Jane Kaufman's broad and deep look at farmers' markets is impressive. She covered many angles and included lots of voices.

Business/Economic Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Nancy Lavin

Rhode Island Current

Accused of deceptive practices, R.I. solar company CEO operates in unregulated business climate

Reporter Nancy Lavin did an exceptional job of covering all the bases with this piece. Congratulations are getting Smart Green Solar CEO Jasjit "Jay" Gotra to consent to an interview and photo shoot. The interviews with Smart Green Solar customers and employees were very illuminating. I'm also glad that you spoke with the regulators who identified the shortcomings of current law. Bravo on a job well done!

2nd Place: Alvin Buyinza

MassLive

Here's why there aren't any Michelin-starred restaurants in Mass.

This piece was an eye opener for me, and I imagine for readers. Thank you for including a variety of viewpoints from restaurant owners and revealing that there is a fee charged by Michelin to have a guide in a community. Well done.

3rd Place: Will Katcher

MassLive

A pot shop sued this Mass. town for \$1.2M. Could other towns be on the hook?

This piece, together with the one on cannabis lounges, was well-reported, with many voices and perspectives.

Reporter Will Katcher does a nice job of explaining the complex world of cannabis regulation. He has clearly developed an expertise in this important new industry and

articulate sources.

3rd Place: Will Katcher

MassLive

When will Massachusetts allow cannabis lounges? It's anyone's guess

This piece, together with the one on community impact fees, was well-reported, with many voices and perspectives. Reporter Will Katcher does a nice job of explaining the complex world of cannabis regulation. He has clearly developed an expertise in this important new industry and articulate sources.

Business/Economic Reporting

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Christopher Allen, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

CHASING WEALTH

Good, detailed analysis. Clearly written and presented with great visuals.

2nd Place: Eric Casey

Worcester Business Journal

Canal District Transformation, parts 1&2

Good analysis of the transformation of commercial district and why it's important for the region.

3rd Place: Greg Ryan

Boston Business Journal

Downtown double-down

Very nice profile of a commercial real estate developer who took chances that few others would touch.

Business/Economic Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

As climate changes: Making snow key to resorts

Excellent piece illustrating the various steps these ski areas are taking to remain in business during very challenging times. Well-written, thorough.

2nd Place: Erika Brown, Ashish Jha

The Manchester Cricket

Real Estate: With Inventory Loosening, What Does it Mean?

Solid piece of real estate reporting that looks at the challenging local market. Great use of graphics.

3rd Place: Bridget Higdon

Saint Albans Messenger

How Franklin County's independent grocery stores build community despite challenges

Nice job putting the reader in the shoes of these small store owners that many people take for granted. Challenges well outlined. Nice photography.

Business/Economic Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Aaron Calvin

News & Citizen

Resorts withdraw connector lift proposal

Good job of digging up and sticking with a story that could have huge implications for the environment and regional economy.

2nd Place: Derek Brouwer

Seven Days

Vermont's Solar-Industry Giant iSun Faces Bankruptcy and a Fire Sale

A solid in-depth look at this firm's bankruptcy and the challenges faced by the solar industry.

3rd Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

Ever-Increasing Demand Fuels Landscaping Business Growth

Nice in-depth reporting and analysis that shows the changing nature and growing affluence of the local economy.

3rd Place: Luzjennifer Martinez

Valley Breeze

Kip's lives on

Fun feature about a beloved local product with lots of personalities. I bet this was very well read.

Climate Change or Weather Reporting

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Henry Schwan

Telegram & Gazette

It's brutal

Very good piece, Well reported. Introduces multiple dimensions to the challenges facing unhoused population during periods of extreme heat. And goes deeper still: drugs that may decrease ability to withstand the heat, and comparisons to other cities/regions that have exp. extreme heat linked to climate change. Definitely a step above

other articles.

2nd Place: Eric Williams

Cape Cod Times

50 years of erosion: Time takes a toll on Cape Cod's Coast Guard Beach

While an interesting piece about erosion over the past almost century in Cape Cod, doesn't provide any links to climate change contribution to rising seas, etc. Nice feature, no real insights over the impacts of the erosion over time---other than disappearing in a couple of decades. But this must already be having an impact on real estate (beachfront changes), and thus tourism, etc...Not particularly deep, but well-described.

Climate Change or Weather Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

VT Digger.org

Downstream

well reported package on important topic: rebuilding after climate/natural disaster/flood

2nd Place: Kylie Valluzzi

Granite State News Collaborative

New Hampshire lags behind other states in dealing with greenhouse gases from vehicles

well done piece, with in-depth reporting, on vehicle emissions standards in NH, and rippling impact of Calif Standards.

3rd Place: Jennifer Smith

CommonWealth Beacon

A sea change on managed retreat?

Climate Change or Weather Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Ken Picard

Seven Days

On Thin Ice

2nd Place: Aaron Calvin, Tommy Gardner

News & Citizen

Widespread flooding déjà vu for Lamoille County

3rd Place: William von Herff

Provincetown Independent

Climate, Not Wind Farms, Called Threat to Whales

Combating Misinformation and Restoring Trust

Combined Class

1st Place: Lee Howard

The Day

Beyond the Polls

2nd Place: Paula Routly

Seven Days

From the Publisher column

3rd Place: Irene Rotondo

MassLive

Police warned about Apple's NameDrop — but the warnings weren't accurate

Commentary

Combined Class

1st Place: John L. Micek

MassLive

What does genocide look like? An Auschwitz exhibit in Boston tries to answer | John L. Micek

A well-written column, as are all of John L. Micek's entries. This one rises to the top by drawing the link to the debate of the Israel-Gaza conflict.

2nd Place: Calli Remillard

The Bourne Enterprise

A Damning Indictment For Many

A clear and strong editorial that has two effective prongs (which is difficult to do in a single editorial) - questioning inadequate defense security vetting while condemning the unregulated online site Discord.

3rd Place: Angelo Lynn

Addison County Independent

commentary, no easy fix for costly education budgets
A worthwhile effort to explain the pressures on school budgets in a time when many were rejected by taxpayers, and some suggestions to move forward. A solid community editorial.

Community/Audience Involvement

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive leader series

These five collections of community leaders is truly

outstanding. Readers nominated and wrote why these "leaders" are worthy of such high accolades. The stories, photographs and layouts are superb.

2nd Place: Emily Turner, Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Community Section

A wonderful array of just how community engagement and audience involvement should be presented. The topics are not only interesting and but clever as well. Getting the readers involved in this way is very entertaining to say the least.

3rd Place: Amy Conway, Stephanie Zollshan

The B

"In Conversation," page 75–85 (The B Magazine Issue 4)
"In Conversation" is a terrific concept of Q&A's with eight remarkable women. The questions are well thought out and the answers are inspiring. Tremendous layout and photos.

Crime and Courts Reporting

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Katie Mulvaney

Providence Journal

DA's office turnover

In depth piece on the resignations in the RI AG's officer in recent years.

2nd Place: Steve Collins

Sun Journal

Documents reveal police officers' 'courageous' response
More than a year after the mass murder of 18 in Lewiston, the local paper pulls together a look at the heroic response of the local police to respond to locate the mass murderer.

3rd Place: Greta Jochem

The Republican

'Overserving' at The Still

Great coverage of the lawsuit brought by family of a deceased 25-year old who was driving DUI after being served "last call" at an Agawam bar. Stats show the bar had been cited numerous times for Last call violations.

Crime and Courts Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Ginny Monk

The Connecticut Mirror

The forces that shaped a Hartford toddler's life - and death
Excellent reporting on the death of a five year old boy whose mother left him alone in a squalid apartment in the case of several older sisters. Generational poverty in the extreme.

2nd Place: Gintautas Dumcius

CommonWealth Beacon

The last of Somerville's old guard
Terrific job in covering the case and the history of Somerville where municipal favors were commonplace.

3rd Place: Dave Eisenstadter

MassLive

Northampton cop who tackled 60-year-old woman got training, but no punishment
Very thorough and fair coverage of a Northampton police officer who drags 60-year old woman out of her car after she fails to follow his instruction on a blown front light. Coverage insures better instruction on such stops by local police.

Crime and Courts Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Colin Flanders and Derek Brouwer

Seven Days

From Room 37 to Cell 17

Compelling, well written and well researched

2nd Place: Erika Brown

The Manchester Cricket

The Fight that Brought Down the MCC

2nd Place: John Flowers

Addison County Independent

Prosecutor faces scrutiny and Vekos pleads innocent DUI

3rd Place: Sam Pollak

Provincetown Independent

Abuse of J-1 Visa Workers in Provincetown (2-part series)

Editorial Cartoon

Combined Class

1st Place: Hakan Sahin

The Harvard Press

Cartoon: Closed for reprofitization

This is what an editorial cartoon should be: clear, concise, and blunt. The simplicity of the background focuses the reader's attention on the message.

2nd Place: Tim Newcomb

Seven Days

Tim Newcomb cartoon

Who won't recognize the Shakespearean allusion? Nicely crafted, and the figures are instantly recognizable.

3rd Place: Peter Menice

The Hull Times

Bottleneck

Well drawn cartoon that doesn't even need a text explanation. I got it right away.

Editorial Writing

Combined Class

1st Place: Mark Guerringue

The Conway Daily Sun

Conway Sun Editorials

Powerful editorials that speak to the reader. No twists and turns, just plain-spoken and extremely readable.

2nd Place: David Coffey

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Eagle Editorial Writing

The two editorials on a police search of a middle school classroom for a controversial book were most impressive – powerful but not hysterical. Commendable.

3rd Place: Calli Remillard

The Bourne Enterprise

Bourne Enterprise Editorials

These editorials grab the reader's attention from the start. Well-written and thought-provoking.

Editorial/Commentary Page

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

The Ellsworth American

Ellsworth American Opinion

These are two attractive pages containing articles on a variety of topics. It's hard to imagine that one or more of them won't succeed in attracting a reader's attention.

Extremely well packaged.

2nd Place: Angelo Lynn

Addison County Independent

editorial pages for Addison Independent

A plethora of material – enough for two full pages and parts of two others, with much of the material contributed by readers. The paper is surely doing something right.

Education Reporting

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Christopher Williams, Emily Duggan

Sun Journal

Free speech or uncivil discourse?

Such an important topic, and the paper did an excellent job of covering it. Kudos.

2nd Place: Scott Merzbach

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Amherst Regional School District in crisis

Good reporting on how a school district handles--or does not handle--Title IX.

3rd Place: Jackie Valley, Alfredo Sosa

The Christian Science Monitor

Americans need help with child care. One solution is catching on in Maine.

Interesting piece on how parents started a business to help other open much-needed day care centers.

Education Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Colin Hogan

The New Bedford Light

The students the "reading wars" forgot

A compelling look inside the classroom at an important program to address literacy for Spanish-speaking students. Many stories on education focus on administrators and infrastructure. Student and teacher voices make this come alive.

2nd Place: Juliet Schulman-Hall

MassLive

Universities and colleges are struggling with enrollment. Could this population be a solution?

This story is solutions-based journalism at its best: it has wide-ranging policy implications for struggling schools, and it centers the experience of students.

3rd Place: Kelly Burch, Rhianwen Watkins

Granite State News Collaborative

NH Education Standards Series

This comprehensive multimedia investigation of New Hampshire's efforts to revise educational standards examines the impact for teachers and classrooms.

Education Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Anne Wallace Allen

Seven Days

Pass or Fail?

Comprehensive, well-written and richly illustrated story that highlights a potential threat to the survival of a state college system.

2nd Place: Ella Niederhelman

Ipswich Local News

Ella Niederhelman - Education Articles

A unique series that taps the ultimate insider -- a high school student -- to report on her world. Admirable hustle and enterprise.

3rd Place: Katie Castellani, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

Class of Their Own

A lively and well-illustrated series on the important issue of job retraining.

Energy News and Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Marc E. Fitch

CT Inside Investigator

The Green Bank

An impressive tour through a murky area of clean tech development. The story uncovers an ethically shady policy choice by the Green Bank and shines a light on a practice that could use some disinfectant.

2nd Place: Anastasia E. Lennon

The New Bedford Light

Glauconite: A tricky, sticky mineral that's challenging offshore wind developers

A well-researched effort into an important issue that has gotten very little coverage to date. It explains the science and technical aspects well and clearly, and frames the stakes of the issue.

3rd Place: Francisco Uranga

The Connecticut Examiner

Plans for Massive Data Center Linked to Nuclear Power Spark Debate on Connecticut's Energy Future

This asks big questions about an incoming industry and has a well-developed range of voices. Lays some of the stakes out nicely and clearly for the average reader.

Environmental Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 13,000

1st Place: Emilee Klein

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Tree wreckers causing havoc

2nd Place: Tom Eastman, Rachel Sharples

The Conway Daily Sun

Two Rivers Run Through It

3rd Place: Heather McCarron

Cape Cod Times

'Emergency effort.' \$82 million dedicated to right whale conservation. Can it save them?

Environmental Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Roberta Baker

New Hampshire Union Leader

Carbon credits cut deeply into the North Woods

2nd Place: Jane Kaufman

The Berkshire Eagle

An 18th-century road with 21st-century problems

3rd Place: Tom Mooney

Providence Journal

Big River

Environmental Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Nancy Lavin

Rhode Island Current

Aquaculture applications are down. The battle for Tiverton's Sapowet Cove might be why

A highly engaging and beautifully told David vs. Goliath struggle that pulls the curtain back on an often-neglected industry.

2nd Place: Anastasia E. Lennon

The New Bedford Light

Glauconite: A tricky, sticky mineral that's challenging offshore wind developers

Startling reporting into a virtually unknown aspect of the offshore wind industry. Even lifelong coastal readers will be surprised.

3rd Place: Emma Cotton

VTDigger.org

Wild Divide

This perceptive series goes behind the labels and diatribe to give us a nuanced picture of wildlife management as a blood sport of its own.

Environmental Reporting

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Jacquelyn Voghel, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

Ripple Effects

2nd Place: Lucas Thors

Nantucket Bluedot

Fighting Forever Chemicals

3rd Place: Leslie Garrett, Sheny Leon

Bluedot Living MV

What's So Bad About Corn?

3rd Place: Sam Moore

Bluedot Living MV

How Environmental Research Can Rely on Drones

Environmental Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Dean Geddes

The Inquirer and Mirror

Mid-island wells test high for PFAS levels

2nd Place: Susan Hunter

Duxbury Clipper

Moving from bay to table

3rd Place: Julie Gowel

The Harvard Press

Mucky start, strong finish: Pond weeds removed from swimming area

3rd Place: Kaie Quigley

The Inquirer and Mirror

Shorebird fencing questioned in marine mammal entanglements

Environmental Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: William von Herff

Provincetown Independent

Entanglement Leads to Death of Young Right Whale

2nd Place: Melissa Pasanen

Seven Days

Growing Pains

3rd Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

Pine Beetle Infestation Invades Island Forests

Event Special Section

Combined Class

1st Place: Seven Days Staff

Seven Days

Where the Sun Don't Shine: Seven Days Guide to the 2024 Solar Eclipse

Incredible special section to commemorate the viewing of the 2024 solar eclipse in Vermont. The section uses an amazing combination of facts, graphics, human interest stories, maps and even myths around solar eclipses.

2nd Place: Sue Leggett and Staff

Addison County Independent

Field Days Program

A superb special section giving a comprehensive overview of their cherished local country fair. The layout is outstanding with vibrant use of color photos and graphics, along with fascinating historical features.

3rd Place: James Bessette, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

PBN Leaders & Achievers

An important special section highlighting some of the top business leaders in Rhode Island. The layout is impressive along with informative bios on these remarkable people.

Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships

Combined Class

1st Place: Carly Berlin, VTDigger, Vermont Public

VTDigger.org

Housing coverage collaboration

1st Place: Tom Morgan, Heidi Lacey et al.

Addison County Independent

Living Together columns series

2nd Place: Derek Brouwer, Liam Elder-Connors

(Vermont Public)

Seven Days

Trials & Tribulations

Food Page or Section

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

3rd Place: Kendra Nordin Beato

The Christian Science Monitor

Father and son cooking duo stirs up Chinese cuisine

I appreciated how the author of this feature went beyond the recipes in this new father-son cookbook and took the time to learn how the project brought the two men closer together. Job well done!

Food Page or Section

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Food, Dec. 27, 2023

This is a terrific example of Food section that (perhaps) is stretching the cooking boundaries of its readership while also providing the kind of post-holiday tips that everyone needs. Plus, the lead image is just mouth-watering, in all its shades of brown and yellow.

Food Page or Section

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Katelyn Umholtz

Boston.com

Boston.com Food Section

This is a delightful, well-reported feature that digs deep into the North Shore roast beef sandwich and the Facebook group that has fueled a new wave of interest for the signature dish.

Food Page or Section

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Melissa Pasanen and Jordan Barry

Seven Days

Food Section, November 15, 2024 (pages 38-44)

This is a great example of writers and editors producing a high-quality food section on what appears to be a limited budget. The writers neatly balance their food knowledge with some highly readable, always delicious prose.

2nd Place: Shepard Bassett

New Boston Beacon

The New Boston Beacon

This is a charming column devoted to those who really want to treat mom right on Mother's Day. The prose is warm, inviting, sometimes funny, all condensed into a few tightly thematic paragraphs. The author even shares tips and provides an alternative for those not drinking alcohol. A thoughtful and engaging read.

3rd Place: Bill Morrison

Mount Desert Islander

The case for sea vegetables on your plate

This is the kind of column that can be written only after a lifetime of experience with sea greens and vegetables. The chef-author is deeply knowledgeable about the subject and has produced a terrific primer on sea vegetables and their culinary and nutritional benefits. He provides two recipes too. You couldn't ask for more.

Front Page

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Evan Berkowitz

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Eagle, Nov. 4, 2023

Clever use of the photos and story to create strong focal point on the page. White space accents the clean and simple use of display type.

2nd Place: Kris Pisarik

New Hampshire Union Leader

Justice for Harmony

Excellent use of multi-photographs on a front page for reader appeal. Easy to view and read page that has a newsy look.

2nd Place: Kris Pisarik

New Hampshire Union Leader

Gawking on Sunshine

Excellent lead photo with supporting art designed to lead the reader through the entire page.

3rd Place: John Ruddy

The Day

All eyes were on the sky

Well designed page to have reader appeal with the placement of art and sizes of the headlines. the lead package has strong appeal.

Front Page

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Anne Ewing

Providence Business News

SETTLING IN

Pleasing visual impact with a well composed photo with good lighting that is accent on the page with a pale tint block. Good use of typographic weights and sizes for leading the eye through the page.

1st Place: Anne Ewing

Providence Business News

FADING FEARS

The white space framing the lead story contrast the photo and headline for reader appeal. Good use of a secondary story and proms. Excellent use of spot colors to support the headlines and aid the reader's eye.

2nd Place: Matt Selva, Jim Neuger

Mainebiz

Renee Cordes

Eye catching fun photo. The main headline needs to be a 15-20% smaller and one less line on the read-in deck of the designed headline. Good impact.

3rd Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

MV Times front page

Strong focal point with good use of headline sizes and weights to pull the reader through the page.

General News Story

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Kathy Bossa

The Enterprise

East Bridgewater woman who lost everything in fire describes dramatic rescue by strangers. Kudos to Kathy Bossa for this engrossing account of a house fire and the devastated homeowner. Bossa goes heavy on the details, which raises this beyond the typical fire log story. The call to action at the end is an excellent touch.

2nd Place: Greg Sukiennik

The Berkshire Eagle

Bodycam sheds light on search

Troubling account of a police search based on a politically charged issue that is a microcosm of today's culture wars. Credit to the Berkshire Eagle for securing the body cam footage to detail what happened in the classroom.

3rd Place: Daymond Steer, Rachel Sharples

The Conway Daily Sun

Winter wonderland causes outages

One of the commonalities of a community is the weather. The Conway Daily Sun does a tidy job chronicling a late-season storm with disruptive power.

General News Story

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Carly Berlin, Habib Sabet, Babette Stolk

VTDigger.org

While state stands up shelters, some Vermonters exit motels without a plan

Carly Berlin, Habib Sabet and Babette Stolk thoroughly detail a difficult transition in Vermont housing policies. The story is clear, crisp and compelling.

2nd Place: Cate Hewitt

The Connecticut Examiner

Historic Demolition Decision in Waterford Hinges on Technicality

Cate Hewitt delivers on a difficult challenge: Make a complicated zoning issue interesting to the average reader. Bravo for balancing a high level of detail without overloading the story. Excellent municipal storytelling.

3rd Place: Molly Farrar

Boston.com

Beverly venue apologizes after Richard Dreyfuss goes on rant ahead of 'Jaws' screening

Molly Farrar gets to the heart of an uncomfortable and unfortunate evening with a well-known celebrity. Props for noting the previous near-identical incident to provide context.

General News Story

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Christopher Allen, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

READY AND ABLE

Interesting topic, not often explored. Well handled, with an appealing blend of comments from older employees, experts and hiring managers, and helpful statistics. Related chart is a plus. Related editorial too.

2nd Place: Rick A. Snizek

Rhode Island Catholic

Attack survivor says Israel must make a deal to ensure release of hostages

Compelling tale of woe experienced by an Israeli woman who had five family members captured by Hamas, two of whom were killed. A personal, heart-rending account that brings the Mideast conflict home for those thousands of miles away.

3rd Place: Katherine Hamilton

Worcester Business Journal

The new Worcester media, parts 1 & 2

Varied voices add to the depth of this look at the news media landscape in Worcester and other areas of Central Massachusetts. Statistics in chart form help inform this piece. Provides a good snapshot of news media now and before, and the changes in between, that shape news coverage in those areas. Quantitative analysis comparing coverage of some news stories adds value to this piece.

General News Story

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Vineyard Wind Blade Failure

Quick and detailed response to the wind farm blade failure and its impact on Nantucket. Variety of stories shed light from various vantages on this incident. Well-written and well-illustrated.

2nd Place: Kaie Quigley

The Inquirer and Mirror

Housing Series

In-depth look at a housing crunch that has accelerated in recent years and bodes doing so even more in the future. Does an excellent job of detailing the problem, with clearly-explained statistics that buttress quoted comments. Leaves the impression with readers that the problem is closer to being unsolvable than solvable, even in the long term.

3rd Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

Awe, romance and traffic mark Stowe eclipse

Light, entertaining coverage of the eclipse scene in Stowe, with news related to the event sprinkled in. Good statistics to show level of visitors for the event, and some interesting sidelights on marriage ceremonies, here and elsewhere, during the eclipse.

General News Story

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

Totally Transfixed

Coverage befitting the enormity of the event. Well-conceived, well written and well-illustrated. Encompasses a host of angles, including locals, out-of-town visitors, and the value-added element of sending journalists to a representative array of viewing sites. Excellent detail and descriptive writing in all of the pieces. Top-notch interview selections too, with telling quotes.

2nd Place: Trevor Meek & John Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

ILN - Whittier Tech

Dogged coverage of an issue that rankled many communities involved with Whittier Tech -- coverage that might have played a role in rejection of a new Whittier school. Coverage featured facts and statistics that showed concerns over failed communications about the new school

plan, about the process followed, and about disparities in how the school would be financed, community-by-community. Repeated reliance on figures and charts showing the disparities and cost impacts helped elucidate the concerns expressed in the series of stories. Stories were well-presented in their length, clear wording and illustrative graphics.

3rd Place: Derek Brouwer

Seven Days

The Fight for Decker Towers

Exhaustive reporting on an intolerable situation in a federal housing complex. Outlines in depth the problems with squatters and drug users and dealers in the building, with comments from residents and officials. On-scene reporting makes the account even more authentic.

Government Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Dan Jackson

The Republican

Water on the block

Thorough, detailed examination of an important issue facing Ware: Whether to privatize all or part of its water and sewer systems or hold onto them in light of pending expensive upgrades needed. A balanced, fair and well-explained account of a complex and technical issue. Representative photos add value to the coverage.

2nd Place: Jane Kaufman

The Berkshire Eagle

The 'front lines of democracy'

Revelatory piece about the red tape and expense caused by mail-in and early voting. This hidden cost, in taxing manpower beyond previous levels and added expense, is a drawback to this change in balloting, as seen in this story. Accompanying chart shows that early voting and mail-in ballots are increasing, which bides even more red tape and increased expense for the future. A strong public-service account to balance the ballyhoo favoring these voting changes.

3rd Place: Roberta Baker

New Hampshire Union Leader

NH towns struggle to find staff and volunteers

Well-sourced piece on what might seem like an unusual problem -- trouble filling paid and unpaid positions in municipal governments in New Hampshire. Those in larger communities elsewhere, where local government positions are readily filled, might be surprised by what this story reveals about what appears to be a growing problem in New Hampshire's smaller towns. Story is fleshed out

with numbers and telling comments about the extent of the problem and the reasons for it.

3rd Place: Roberta Baker
New Hampshire Union Leader
Police shortage

Startling report on a shortage of police officers in many departments in New Hampshire, and the reasons for that. Touches many bases on the breadth of the problem -- local and state -- and with the varied sources quoted. An in-depth look at a significant issue.

Government Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Keith M. Phaneuf
The Connecticut Mirror
CT's Fiscal Guardrails

This is a fascinating and vitally important series about a budget deal struck in 2017 that is now hampering top priorities in Connecticut. At a moment of fiscal crisis, the state legislature and the governor adopted tight spending restraints that directed an enormous amount of money to building up the state's reserves and investing in the unfunded pension liability. The system held during the worst of the COVID pandemic thanks to massive amounts of federal assistance. Now, though, those guardrails are preventing the state from spending money on social-service needs such as fuel assistance, public higher education, Medicaid and the like. The reporter, Keith Phaneuf, looks at how these guardrails came into being and interviews not just government officials but people who have been affected by these constraints, including social workers and college students. He closes by examining alternatives that legislators and outside groups are considering. A triumph of explanatory journalism.

2nd Place: Grace Ferguson
The New Bedford Light

One year of Building New Bedford
Judge's discretion: The New Bedford Light entered three stories by its housing reporter, Grace Ferguson. I am combining them into one entry and awarding Ferguson second place in this category. Two of the stories, on New Bedford's halting progress with its plan to increase housing in the city and on a crackdown on absentee landlords, are directly related to housing. The third, on New Bedford's opaque system of granting abatements to commercial landlords, is not directly related to housing, but it's indirectly related in the sense that how the city manages its relationship with property owners affects everyone — commercial property owners, residential landlords, homeowners and tenants. Ferguson has a sure touch for

explaining complicated policy issues, writing strong anecdotal leads and bringing her stories down to a grassroots level by getting out and talking to people on the ground

3rd Place: Kelly Burch, Rhianwen Watkins
Granite State News Collaborative
Education Standards Series

The Granite State News Collaborative, which brings together "nearly 20 local media, education and community partners working together to produce and share news stories on the issues that most impact New Hampshire," has produced a comprehensive series of stories on the state's effort to update its core educational standards. The series included a finding that officials may have been violating the New Hampshire Constitution by not providing sufficient funding as well as an effort to force the task force involved in updating the core to release public records in keeping with the public-records law. The most recent story in the package that was submitted, dated July 28, depicts a process that was seriously flawed, with the work of the task force significantly behind schedule and ongoing concerns about transparency. According to the note that accompanied the series, the collaboration's journalism resulted in what had been an obscure process becoming the subject of considerable public attention, with more than 100 people testifying before the legislature and another 200-plus educators registering their opposition to the standards. High-impact journalism of this sort deserves to be recognized.

Government Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Sophie Mann-Shafir
Provincetown Independent

Voter Registration Controversy in Truro (4-part series)
The Provincetown Independent obtained an email showing that a group of part-time residents in Truro were conducting a voter-registration drive, urging people to register whether they were legally eligible to vote or not. The activist who wrote the email told Independent reporter Sophie Mann-Shafir that because the email was confidential, "You shouldn't have it," music to the ears of journalists everywhere. The Independent's reporting led to a review of the voter rolls by town officials, with a number of part-time residents removed, as well as the delay of a special town meeting. The controversy pit long-time residents who wish to keep the town's rural character against the more affluent newcomers. This is accountability journalism at its finest and made a real difference in the lives of those who live in Truro.

2nd Place: Courtney Lamdin

Seven Days

Burlington Officials Are Fed Up With a Notorious Church Street Apartment Building

In a strong, deeply reported initial article and a follow-up, Seven Days reporter Courtney Lamdin dives into the problems created by a family of notorious local property owners and the city's seeming inability to do much about them. The story begins with a shooting that took place in Burlington's tourist district and takes us through disturbances, trespassing, threats and illegal drug use. Despite complaints from neighboring business owners and near-constant visits from the police, city officials said they would rather try to work with the family than take tougher action, which could lead to delays in court. In the follow-up, Lamdin reports that the city finally suspended the rental permit for the building that's at the center of the initial story. This is a vitally important quality-of-life issue, and Seven Days' reporting helped the community understand why problems such as these are so difficult to solve.

3rd Place: Greg Ryan

Boston Business Journal

“Turmoil and turnover”

Reporter Greg Ryan of the Boston Business Journal documents the mess left behind when Dan Rivera was forced out after three years as CEO of MassDevelopment, a quasi-governmental state agency. According to Ryan, Rivera left behind a legacy of financial turmoil, resignations by top officials and poor morale. Among other things, we learn that layoffs may be necessary if the state fails to intervene with an infusion of cash. Ryan was unable to pierce the veil fully enough to explain exactly what went wrong — indeed, Rivera is quoted as defending himself, and there are others who speak on his behalf as well. Still, Ryan offers a useful portrayal of a leader and a state agency that are emblematic of what often seems like an inability on the part of Massachusetts government to do anything competently.

Headline Writing

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

Seven Days

Best Headlines

Eye on This Guy

As the solar eclipse approaches, Vermont astronomer and meteorologist Mark Breen is having his moment in the sun

JUDGE’S COMMENT: The mainhed and drophed are equally clever and original.

2nd Place: John Ruddy

The Day

Death of a landmark

JUDGE’S COMMENT: The word “death” is no exaggeration for such a familiar landmark in New London, and the community’s sense of loss must have been significant.

3rd Place: Jeff Potter

The Commons

A war of words over words about war

JUDGE'S COMMENT: The use of "war" twice in the headline emphasizes the serious of the topic, so it's not taken as frivolous play on words.

Health Reporting

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Greg Sukiennik

The Berkshire Eagle

How do local ambulance services meet their bottom lines?

A well-reported and thorough investigation of an under-reported issue that impacts the entire community.

2nd Place: Kendra Caruso

Sun Journal

Before it's too late

A heartbreaking story told with compassion. The reporter clearly worked to earn the trust of a family to tell a story that shines light on a much bigger problem.

3rd Place: Kelly Burch

The Keene Sentinel

Local pediatric mental health supports improving, but demand still not met

This investigation is so powerful because of the Hardy family's personal story. This solutions story also explores the limitations of a system not fully equipped to handle an increasing problem.

Health Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Rose Lundy

The Maine Monitor

Long-Term Challenge

This is important watchdog journalism that comes at an important time, as the nation’s – and Maine’s – aging population grows and more and more people find themselves in facilities like these. The series nicely blends strong public records and shoe leather reporting, drawing on specific incident reports and vital interviews with

former employees of the facilities in question. This is a terrific series that is clearly having impact in the nation's oldest state, and a body of work worthy of first place in this division. Congratulations.

2nd Place: Dave Altimari, Jenna Carlesso, Katy Golvala

The Connecticut Mirror
Crisis in CT's Hospitals

Far too often, when big news breaks, journalists flood the zone to cover the spot developments and then move on to the next big thing. Here, *The Connecticut Mirror* reminds us of the power of sticking with the story, with a deeply reported series delving into the struggles, financial and otherwise, of Prospect Medical facilities following a devastating cyberattack. The detailed retelling of that incident, using emails and other records obtained via FOIA requests, is an impressive piece of public service journalism – giving everyday readers, lawmakers and health care experts an inside look at what went wrong and how officials might better respond if, or when, another attack comes.

3rd Place: Hadley Barndollar

MassLive

Massachusetts communities struggle with 'tranq'
Great explanatory series about yet another unfortunate chapter in the nation's opioid epidemic and the ever-evolving challenges law officers and health officials face in combating it. The reporting is solid, but the stories are also well told, with strong details, imagery and pacing.

Health Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Hayley Duffy

The Martha's Vineyard Times
The Island's hidden homeless

This is a deeply reported story that outlines a clear problem hidden in plain sight. The reporter gained the trust of vulnerable sources, which adds to the compelling narrative.

2nd Place: Rachel Hellman

Seven Days
Taking Care

A well-written and sourced solutions story that other communities could replicate.

3rd Place: Alison Novak

Seven Days
Final Act

Compassionate storytelling about a complicated problem that crosses state lines.

History Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 13,000

1st Place: James Pentland

Daily Hampshire Gazette

The Mill River Flood 150 years later

While much of the sourcing of this expansive look at one of 19th America's worst flood tragedies came from a knowledgeable historian, the writer effectively combined those extensive interviews with historical reports, letters, and other materials to deliver this deeply engaging and gripping retrospective. Pentland took pains to vividly detail the devastating horror through a crafted recounting of the debris-packed mayhem as it wreaked its havoc - while appropriately capturing the spirit of heroes who saved so many lives.

2nd Place: Heather McCarron, Steve Heaslip

Cape Cod Times

A Cape Cod Times photographer remembers covering the 1999 Kennedy plane crash

If the best and most accurate events in history are assembled in slices, this fantastic first-person account by Steve Heaslip has provided a credible helping. He also does great work revealing how decidedly unglamorous and logistically complicated the work of a dedicated news shooter was 'back then' - until that one indelible moments presents to their lens and makes it all worthwhile.

History Reporting

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Jane Kaufman

The Berkshire Eagle

Saving a piece of Jewish history

Well-written story tells about a fascinating historical piece through the words of the folks who are saving it and moving it to a place where it will be preserved and appreciated.

2nd Place: John Ruddy

The Day

Sub's North Pole journey was a Cold War triumph

The writer captured the dramatic and historically important role of the Nautilus, using an interview with a man who was there and good published sources to weave this fascinating tale. Well done!

3rd Place: Joe Durwin

The Berkshire Eagle

Opium raids targeted Chinese laundries

A fascinating and little-known story about bigotry and orchestrated racism aimed at driving out Chinese-owned laundries at one point in history. The role of unions and police targeting Chinese immigrants is well documented. The story suffers from a lack of contemporary sources who could shine light on this important slice of history.

3rd Place: Steve Collins

Sun Journal

Lewis Penick Clinton

Well-researched and written story about an unusual and gifted Bates student. The reporter doesn't shy away from pointing out the rampant racism in newspaper reporting about this man back in those days.

History Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Colin Hogan

The New Bedford Light

No tea, no party: Remembering New Bedford's role in the Boston Tea Party 250 years later

Kudos to Colin Hagen for discovering and educating his New Bedford readers - and the world - about another facet of what may be among the most famous and oft told stories of the American Revolution - embedding it in an easy to read narrative that illuminates a hyper-local element that few may have previously known about.

2nd Place: Abby Patkin

Boston.com

Why isn't Brookline part of Boston?

The writer has constructed a text-book historical retrospective of the history of Brookline, but did so in a way that represents fantastic story-telling. Any reader who might tend to gloss over and move on when reading about land use and development could find great writing and information in this Abby Patkin article.

3rd Place: Irene Rotondo

MassLive

Mass. launched world's first scratch ticket 50 years ago. That bet paid off.

When you consider the centuries-old history of games of chance, this feature captured the chronology of one of the world's more recent developments in gambling 'technology' in an educational and engaging way. This is a great example of History reporting because it discovered something virtually millions of participants have since

held in their own hands, and filled in the blanks (or at least scratched the surface) of how it actually got there!

History Reporting

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Carole Owens

The B

"Born in the Berkshires," *The B Magazine* (Issue 3)

This feature presented a rich and well researched tapestry of subject matter, journalistically pieced together to create a spectacular retrospective of a locally centered movement in architecture. The writer did expert work by engaging and not alienating readers who may have been unfamiliar or had little familiarity with architecture and/or how its industry-centric celebrities flocked to their communities.

2nd Place: Staff

The B

"See Her, Be Her," page 70 (*The B Magazine*, Issue 4)

Kudos to Megan Tady for discovering this wonderful story and bringing it to life for her readers in an expertly crafted, and meticulously researched feature accompanied and greatly enhanced by its graphics and layout design!

3rd Place: Dan Rothman

New Boston Beacon

End of the Rainbow Concert

This feature was a refreshingly light and brief but captivating in its recalling through limited resources, a locally historically significant cultural event. We liked that the writer asserted his explanation about not wanting to present the fruits of his 'Rainbow' research without at least one authentic image, which he was able to finally locate through good old-fashioned library research.

History Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

Notched

Presented with breathtaking photos, detailed historic graphics, and exceptionally well-researched writing - this piece represents 'History writing' at its best. The reporter presents a multi-faceted, deep-dive perspective on the development and historic impact of 'The Notch.'

2nd Place: Joshua Balling

The Inquirer and Mirror

Monuments honor ultimate sacrifice

This reporter turned what might have been just another

mundane holiday preview into an opportunity to showcase the rich history of his community's vital contributions, and tributes to those who served across a wide breadth of wartime theatres. Great work introducing perspectives from community members who survived some of the more recent battles, and those who are committed to keeping those who made the ultimate sacrifice memorialized.

3rd Place: Kris McGinn and Matt Genta

The Manchester Cricket

Anna Coleman Ladd and the Broken Faces

While this piece incorporates a subject with a rich history, and certainly qualifies among the best entries in this category and Class - we hope it will also be considered in an Arts & Entertainment, or personality genre as well. The writer did wonderful work helping place the reader within the events and time periods - and among those interacting with and influencing the subject's work and artistic creativity.

History Reporting

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

Research Potentially Widens Scope of Vineyard's Historic Deaf Community

Fascinating story that updates the state of current research about the Vineyard's deaf community. Well written and great sourcing within.

2nd Place: Anne Wallace Allen

Seven Days

Rep. Anne Donahue is Determined to Find out Where Patients are Buried

An important story about one Vermont woman's quest to locate and recognize patients long forgotten. An excellent narrative.

3rd Place: Mary Ann Lickteig

Seven Days

Twilight Hour

Well written story and interesting information that highlights how the perception and meaning of race have changed through the centuries.

3rd Place: Elias Schisgall

Provincetown Independent

Archives Reveal Clues to Provincetown's Ku Klux Klan Chapter

Good story that shines a light on a dark chapter in

Provincetown's history, showing the large Klan membership there and around the Cape (and state).

Human Interest Feature Story

Daily Newspapers circulation less than 13,000

1st Place: Troy Aidan Sambajon

The Christian Science Monitor

Their weddings made history. Twenty years later, their love endures.

Twenty years ago, Massachusetts' gay marriage law took effect, and Heidi and Gina married on the first day that was allowed. A survey showed that half the first-day applicants for marriage licenses had been partners for at least a decade, 30% had children, and two-thirds were women. Why is this anniversary significant? "You can't overstate the importance of being fully yourself in your life," Heidi said. And, Gina said, "There are still people who are unhappy about it and are doing their darndest to get rid of it."

2nd Place: Sophie Hills

The Christian Science Monitor

America's last lighthouse keeper is retiring. She, and her light, are ready.

End of an era: Sally Snowman retired as America's last lighthouse keeper, leaving Boston Light after 20 years. Technology will replace her, ending a long history of personally warning sailors about navigation hazards and welcoming them to their home port.

3rd Place: Lloyd Jones

The Conway Daily Sun

Therese Davison Sendoff

This story celebrates Therese Davison, who retired as music director at Kennett High School in Conway, N.H., after 31 years. Davison created a marching band, expanded the jazz band program, guided the KHS Concert Band and created the hugely popular drumline program and curriculum at the school while also serving as the musical director of the Mount Washington Valley Community Band. She also made sure her students were at every Veterans Day and Memorial Day service and never missed a parade for the past 30 years. Her students, and the community, loved her.

Human Interest Feature Story

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Matt Martinez

The Berkshire Eagle

When 'GE was everything'

"When GE was everything" is first-rate — history, current

events, emotions, and impacts being felt by the community and its residents right now. The narrative explores why all of that matters.

2nd Place: Julia Ann Weekes

New Hampshire Union Leader

Making 'broken people beautiful'

This deeply felt story explains the importance tattoos can have after trauma — touching stories, hundreds of details.

3rd Place: Lee Howard

The Day

The gift of life

In a series of remarkable coincidences, two brothers each need a kidney, and in both cases, each received a kidney from his wife. One in a billion.

Human Interest Feature Story

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Will Sennott

The New Bedford Light

The Godfather's second act: 'I'm the bank now'

Beautiful, telling detail and carefully selected quotes capture the character of this "godfather." The strong reporting in this piece solidifies this modern gangster's place in history.

2nd Place: Lauren Campbell

MassLive

Charlie Coyle makes Hockey Fights Cancer night perfect for grieving fan

Heartbreaking specific detail takes readers along on Billy's last three weeks of life and his family's loving determination to make every last day a celebration.

3rd Place: Shahrzad Rasekh

The Connecticut Mirror

Pagans in Connecticut: Stepping out of the (broom) closet

Good, strong reporting and detailed observation takes us along as the pagans come out of the broom closet.

Human Interest Feature Story

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Meg Trogolo

Worcester Magazine

Dog is my copilot

The writer makes beautiful use of pacing, showing in action and clear structure to take readers along on the flight of a litter of rescue pit bulls. Showing this specific

mother dog and her human heroes throughout the flight carries the reader along.

2nd Place: Britt Bowker and Sam Moore

Nantucket Bluedot

Raising Farmers on Nantucket

Britt Bowker takes us through this community garden as she plot by plot grows strong snapshot profiles of each gardener. Her use of specific details and her strong organizational devices keep the pace moving to the end.

Human Interest Feature Story

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Liberty Darr

Shelburne News

Other side of the tracks: Mailles run last family-owned dairy in Shelburne

A sign of Vermont's changing culture: The Mailles run the last family-owned dairy in Shelburne. Farms prospered for generations in the town, but have been squeezed out by development and wild changes in the milk business. Why do they keep going?

2nd Place: Tommy Gardner

Stowe Reporter

Stowe teens train as fire fighters

At a time when fire departments are struggling to keep their staffs at full strength, Stowe, Vt., is training teenagers to become firefighters. The kids have deep insights into why this work is important, and how they feel about their community.

3rd Place: Pete Willwerth

The Manchester Cricket

Fish Tales in Manchester by the Sea

Manchester by the Sea in Massachusetts has dramatically gentrified over the decades. Pete Willwerth grew up there, and takes readers on a highly-detailed childhood in the town, starting as a kid figuring out how to catch fish off the dock and continuing with his firsthand experiences with the people who made the community what it was. A great, nostalgic read.

Human Interest Feature Story

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Tommy Gardner

News & Citizen

Solar eclipse wows northern Vermont

A million stories have been written about the eclipse, but this one touches almost a million bases — the students

who'd prepared for the eclipse for months, the family who drove up from Massachusetts and rented a place, the 8-year-old who sold \$300 in maple syrup to the eclipse crowd, the oohs and aahs at multiple places, the science — you name it. Highly personable and interesting.

2nd Place: Noah Glasgow
Vineyard Gazette

Next Generation Answers Call of the Lobster
Lobstering is hard, sometimes dangerous work. This story examines why four young men decided to be the next generation of lobstermen. It's a personal tale, summed up by the ending: "It's honestly kind of nerve wracking, investing into something where you don't know how it's going to turn out. We're all trying to figure everything out together."

3rd Place: John Flowers
Addison County Independent

A young life back from the brink
The news is full of tragic accidents. Here, writer John Flowers delivers an informative, touching story about how an accident 10 years earlier change the life of a young child and her family. Everything changed that day, and Flowers explains it clearly, but with sensitivity.

Illustration/Infographics

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Katy Savage, Staff
Granite Post

By the Numbers: A Look at Women's Progress in NH

2nd Place: Evan Berkowitz
The Berkshire Eagle

"A different breed of Berkshire visitors"

3rd Place: Paulette Chevalier
Nantucket Current
Nantucket Lobster Roll Index

Illustration/Infographics

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Laura Kilgus
Rhode Island Catholic
The Road to Providence

2nd Place: Elissa Turnbull
Boston Bluedot
Boston Dear Dot Illustration

3rd Place: Elissa Turnbull
Bluedot Living MV
MV Dear Dot Illustration

Illustration/Infographics

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: A. Crock (Adam Graham)
Provincetown Independent
Postcards from Long Point Village, illustration

2nd Place: Rob Donnelly
Seven Days
Loss of Grace

3rd Place: Katerina H Werth
Stowe Reporter
RIDE 2024 - Map of Trails & Advertisers

Innovator Award

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Jeff Potter
The Commons

So what happens if you give every contributor a proof of their edited text?

The Innovator Award honors creative solutions that grow and engage a newspaper's audience. This year's winner, The Commons in Brattleboro, Vermont, embodies that spirit with a thoughtful approach to editorial transparency.

Editor Jeff Potter tackled a longstanding challenge: how to involve contributors in the editing process without creating inefficiencies or conflict. His solution—a streamlined, automated workflow that shares proofs of edited contributions—enhances trust, improves communication, and strengthens relationships between the newsroom and its writers.

This system stands out for its smart use of automation without sacrificing human connection. By leveraging open-source tools and custom scripting, The Commons has made editorial collaboration more transparent while avoiding common pitfalls like version control issues. The result? A more engaged, informed, and connected community of contributors.

What makes this innovation exceptional is its scalability

and adaptability. While designed for The Commons, the principles behind it can benefit any newsroom looking to foster greater transparency and engagement.

For its bold reimagining of editorial collaboration and its impact on audience engagement, we are proud to recognize The Commons and Jeff Potter as this year's Innovator Award winner.

Investigative / Enterprise Reporting

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Brad Petrishen

Telegram & Gazette

Police chief retires

Dogged, multi-story coverage of important law enforcement issues. Crisp writing.

2nd Place: Jeannette Hinkle, Brad Petrishen, Kinga Borondy

Telegram & Gazette

Whitewashed series

"Cracks in the state democracy" is how this series of stories explained troubles in police record-keeping, an essential component to local democratic values.

3rd Place: Dan Medeiros

The Herald News

Ghost tours nationwide have an axe to grind with Lizzie Borden House owner: 'Infuriating'

Competition over ghost stories, what fun and enlightening reading.

Investigative / Enterprise Reporting

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff of the Connecticut Mirror

The Connecticut Mirror

How the battle for absentee ballots defined the Bridgeport election

Remarkable reporting showing the depth of dishonesty in Bridgeport mayoral politics.

2nd Place: Bruce Mohl

Commonwealth Beacon

Why did MassDOT hang T employees out to dry?

Meticulous reporting. Good job holding officials feet to the fire.

3rd Place: Dave Altimari, Jenna Carlesso, Katy Golvala

The Connecticut Mirror

Crisis in CT's Hospitals

Readable, minute by minute reporting of a medical crisis that health officials made worse.

Investigative / Enterprise Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Joe Sexton

Seven Days

The Loss of Grace

Heartbreaking story. Insightful expose. Amazing writing by Mr. Sexton.

2nd Place: Joan Eliyesil

The Harvard Press

Unsettled: How Harvard landed an opioid settlement windfall while others got shortchanged

Surprising tale. You almost wonder if this story is actually true. Dogged reporting.

3rd Place: Sofia Barr

Valley Breeze

Uninsured and without help

Classic war against the powers that be. You can feel the frustration of people seeking answers from the local government.

Living Page or Section

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Landscapes, June 8, 2024

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Landscapes, Jan. 13, 2024

3rd Place: Francisco Uranga

The Connecticut Examiner

Yale Peabody Reopens 50% Bigger and Free to All

Living Page or Section

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Teresa Parker, Edouard Fontenot, Susan Abbott

Provincetown Independent

Living Section, "Inside/Out," Provincetown Independent, May 2, 2024

2nd Place: Amy Conway, Julie Hammill

The B

"The Good Life" package--page 42 to 55 (The B Magazine, Issue 6)

2nd Place: Kris Rabasca, Katherine Scott

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Living (Community) Feature – Monarchs

3rd Place: Staff

The Inquirer and Mirror

Living Section

Local Election Coverage

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: K Gregg, P Anderson, A Farzan, M Patinkin

Providence Journal

Congressional race

2nd Place: Stephanie Barry

The Republican

Paying for votes?

Local Election Coverage

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Rhode Island Current

2023 Election

2nd Place: Sophia Muce

The Connecticut Examiner

Warrants Reveal New Details in Bridgeport Election Fraud Case

2nd Place: Sophia Muce

The Connecticut Examiner

Murphy, Himes, Blumenthal Throw Their Support Behind Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim

2nd Place: Sophia Muce

The Connecticut Examiner

Top Democrats Mum as Ganim Looks to Move Past Ballot Fraud Ruling and Win Re-Election in Bridgeport

3rd Place: Gintautas Dumcius

Commonwealth Beacon

In Revere, Latino victory reflects a changing city

Local Election Coverage

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

Addison County Independent

earlier town meeting coverage, Feb 29 town meeting preview 2024, March 7, town meeting wrap 2024

2nd Place: Trevor Meek & John Muldoon

Ipswich Local News

Whittier Tech

3rd Place: Courtney Lamdin

Seven Days

Key to the City

Local Personality Profile

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Sarah Mearhoff

VTDigger.org

Mojo the dog

It's not often that an animal gets to have a profile, much less a profile that's well-written and informative. The story not only tells the reader about the importance of Mojo's job, but also lets the reader into his world. One of my favorite graphs: "Part of what makes Mojo so effective is that he cannot grasp the profound sadness of his work. He is blissfully unaware of the contents of the material he smells, and the immense harm that content has inflicted on some of society's most vulnerable victims."

2nd Place: Will Sennott

The New Bedford Light

The Godfather's second act: "I'm the bank now"

This is a well-reported and well-written story that keeps the reader engaged from the start. Great descriptive scenes, accompanied by data and great quotes.

3rd Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy

Republican-American

Beloved Baker

There's something special about this story, as if one can smell the space, hear the chatter and listen to this 80-year-old man who wants to preserve the traditions he's treasured for decades. Great reporting and writing.

Local Personality Profile

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Lucas Thors, Sheny Leon

Bluedot Living MV

Local Hero: Ewell Hopkins

Lucas Thors brilliantly and engagingly teases out a tremendous level of information from his subject, which is as revealing of Mr. Ewell as a long-time community member, as it is of his period of public service that eventually caused him to pivot toward activism. This feature educates and informs with a great conversational flow.

2nd Place: Lucas Thors, Sheny Leon

Bluedot Living MV

Local Hero: Rick Karney

A very thorough historical deep-dive into one of the Vineyard's most important aquaculture projects as told from the ultimate perspective of the guy who was there from the start. This was a high value interview asset, and the reporter does wonderful work steering the subject to help keep the content from getting too technical as to disengage readers. This piece is also of great historical and public service.

3rd Place: Kris Olson

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

As third novel publishes, judge reflects on 30 years on bench

This profile delivers an excellent retrospect, weaving anecdotes, quotes, and points of historical fact with clever and compelling glimpses of the subjects personality. This piece really captures a sense of the person as well as his personal and judicial journey. Journey.

Local Personality Profile

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Grace Fiori

The Harvard Press

'A good day to plow:' Paul Willard ponders his legacy and the farm's future

Grace Fiori delivers a deep and rich profile that captures the insights and personality of her subject, as well as his self described place within his chosen pursuit of farming. She does great work stitching together elements of the story so it is both well-balanced and easy to read.

2nd Place: Tommy Gardner

Stowe Reporter

Surf's Up

While this profile is, at its roots, a piece about an

invention, it is expertly written to reveal as much about the inventor as it does detailing his creation, how it works, and why it is bringing an entirely new experience to winter sports enthusiasts.

3rd Place: Liberty Darr

The Other Paper

Chittenden County forester taps into new path

This is no simple book preview. Liberty Darr gives readers a glimpse into the spirit and soul of a subject who has literally become one with the work he is doing, showcasing a lifestyle that is rooted in and truly inspired by the natural world he has helped shape around him. Well done!

Local Personality Profile

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Courtney Lamdin

Seven Days

Armed With a Video Camera, One Man Documents Crime and Disorder in Burlington

A memorable profile, rich with detail and nuance. The journalist has done a great job exploring Wayne Savage's work from various angles.

2nd Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

Digging into the Life and Scholarship of Nancy Luce

Well-done profile of an eccentric figure from the past and a local woman who's trying to keep the poet's legacy alive.

3rd Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

A Life in Illustration Is Fueled by the Joy of Free Expression

Good profile, telling the life story of local cartoonist.

Obituaries

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Craig Semon

Telegram & Gazette

Bandmates, family recall rock climber

Staff writer Craig Semon chronicles the unexpected death and rich, full life of a local rock climbing enthusiast who also happened to be an accomplished surf rock guitarist - and reminds readers of the duality. In so doing, he serves up a straightforward narrative that employs seamless transitions while utilizing quotes to compliment the story without ever getting in the way. Given the dearth of copy editors in many newsrooms, Semon's tight, clean copy

stands out - and is much appreciated.

2nd Place: Matt Martinez, Amanda Burke

The Berkshire Eagle

Christopher “Stix” Hairston

An unusual entry in that it chronicles the life and grisly death of a local musician turned homicide victim, nicely balancing critical details about both victim and suspect without getting overwhelmed by the crime angle. Berkshire Eagle reporters Amanda Burke and Matt Martinez skillfully weave recollections by friends and colleagues of the young percussion prodigy with updates on the ongoing investigation.

3rd Place: Emilee Klein

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Remembering Mom on a Mission

Reporter Emilee Klein leans nicely into this retrospective on the tragic death of a local uber-mom on the eve of her 54th birthday while returning from visiting family in Spain. Although writing is a bit clunky at times, the unshakable power of this life well lived ultimately shines through.

Obituaries

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Ryan Mancini

MassLive

A Mass. family celebrated 3-year-old’s life with a parade, music and a birthday. Ryan Mancini's lengthy tearjerker tracing the illness and death of 3-year-old Billy Fournier from liver cancer follows a narrative arc that, at times, is almost unbearable - the account is that powerful. Mancini outlines clinical issues at the root of Billy's condition, documents the medical treatments and daily challenges of caring for a critically ill child and then chronicles the heroically heartbreaking efforts by friends and family members to celebrate his final days with a whirlwind of special events and lots of hugs - as fate draws them all inexorably towards the end. Mercifully, Mancini balances the mounting dread with tenderness and respect for his subjects, bonding readers and the Fournier family in common grief. This is community journalism at its finest.

2nd Place: Sean McAdam

MassLive

Remembering Tim Wakefield, known for an unusual pitch and an extraordinary life | McAdam
Veteran columnist Sean McAdam is an old hand at this game, and it shows in his reflection on the too-brief life

and times of Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield. McAdam, who had a front-row press box seat during much of Wakefield's career, compares the knuckleballer's erratic, sometimes uncontrollable, signature pitch to the vicissitudes of a professional athletic career. He chronicles both the agony and ecstasy of big-league baseball, recounting epic moments that remain fixed in time, while making sure that Wakefield's humanity, and humility, shine through. The sentiment is heavy at times and the conclusion a bit of a throw-away, but this worthy tribute acknowledges a rare athlete who made more of a difference off the diamond than on it.

3rd Place: Mark Pazniokas

The Connecticut Mirror

Joe Lieberman, former U.S. senator and VP candidate, has died

A workmanlike effort commemorating the March 27 death of U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman by staff writer Mark Pazniokas that meticulously chronicles the long arc of Lieberman's political career, from his early days as a state senator, to the hair-breadth loss to George W. Bush as presidential candidate Al Gore's running mate, to more recent efforts at transforming American politics and curbing partisanship by establishing a credible third party.

Obituaries

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter

It's Miller Time

More a meditation on the inexorable forces which have reshaped life in rural Vermont than an obit on noted writer and photographer Peter Miller, this thoughtful essay by staff writer Aaron Calvin takes a decidedly different approach to the genre. Rather than soliciting reflections and anecdotes from former associates or family members, Calvin restricts his use of quotes to Miller's own commentary - at times puckish, other times world-weary - on a variety of subjects. Accompanied by a selection of Miller's photos, Calvin's understated narrative captures the essence and the humanity of this central Vermont institution.

2nd Place: Dean Geddes, Christy Bassett Baker

The Inquirer and Mirror

Jimmy Buffett Remembered

It's not often that small news outlets have a legitimate local angle when profiling a national figure. Given tropical pop icon Jimmy Buffett's long-standing presence on Nantucket, however, reporter Dean Geddes already had a boatload of material when the singer died last September. Chock full of details and amusing anecdotes from those connected to

Buffett through the island's entertainment scene, Geddes portrays the founder of Parrothead Nation as approachable and spontaneous - exactly like his legendary persona.

3rd Place: Tommy Gardner

Stowe Reporter

JB McKinley finishes his last page
Straightforward treatment of the death of former journalist J.B. McKinley, which explores his roles as a husband and father, former editor of the News & Citizen and as a trustee of the Morristown Centennial Library. In so doing, staff writer Tommy Gardner succeeds in celebrating McKinley's life without excess sentiment or embellishing his accomplishments - a too-frequent pitfall among feature obituaries.

Obituaries

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Thomas Humphrey

Vineyard Gazette

Native Earth Teaching Farm Says Goodbye to Queen of the Herd

In a category littered with portentous tomes lionizing very important things undertaken by very important people during very important lives, Thomas Humphrey's posthumous ode to Yvonne, a cloven-hooved pygmy goat who lorded atop the social hierarchy on a Martha's Vineyard farm is a delight. Perhaps understanding that such an epitaph could easily devolve into parody, Humphrey strives to play it straight - sort of - deftly serving up the particulars of Yvonne's ascension to the position of herd queen while farm owner Rebecca Gilbert eulogizes the deceased as kind and motherly, with a definite sense of humor. Playful and light-hearted, this tribute exudes a warmth and, dare we say, a humanity missing from many more conventional entries. Well done.

2nd Place: Dan Bolles

Seven Days

Life Stories: Joseph 'Joe' Moore Jr. 'Was the Tornado'
In his well-researched and written retrospective on central Vermont saxophonist Joseph "Joe" Moore, Seven Days staff writer Dan Bolles' lyrical narrative perfectly captures Moore's contributions to the local club scene over the span of five decades. Renowned for a set of oversized lungs that unleashed sonic waves from his sax, Bolles portrays Moore as a snappy dresser who also played the penny whistle with Celtic combos and taught music to local elementary students.

3rd Place: Tommy Gardner

News & Citizen

Friends, colleagues remember smilin' Brian Kellogg
Staff writer Tommy Gardner employs a lighter touch in this tribute to "Smilin' Brian Kellogg," a Morristown, Vt. selectboard member, dog catcher, firefighter and trash hauler. Although Gardner's narrative loses steam near the end, it still serves as a reminder that feature obits need not read like a nomination for sainthood, just a faithful recounting of a life well lived, warts and all.

Outstanding Newsletter

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Meggie Baker, Jess Gamari

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshires in Brief

Outstanding Newsletter

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Emily Schario, Gia Orsino

Boston.com

The B-Side

2nd Place: Sarah Mearhoff, Shaun Robinson

VTDigger.org

Final Reading

3rd Place: Janine L. Weisman

Rhode Island Current

Swell

Outstanding Newsletter

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Doug Banks

Boston Business Journal

Five Things You Need To Know newsletter

2nd Place: Staff

Boston Bluedot

Bluedot Living Boston newsletter

Outstanding Newsletter

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

MV Times outstanding newsletter

2nd Place: Teresa Parker

Provincetown Independent

Provincetown Independent twice-weekly newsletter

Best Overall Website

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

berkshireeagle.com

The Berkshire Eagle website excels in offering high-quality content. It serves its community with relevant news and advertising content and offers a voice to readers while maintaining journalistic integrity. The site is user-friendly and has an aesthetically pleasing design. It undoubtedly deserves the top spot.

Best Overall Website

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Yael Mazor

CommonWealth Beacon

CommonWealth Beacon delivers high-quality, timely content with a polished and visually engaging design. Its well-organized navigation and effective use of visuals make it appealing and valuable to its Massachusetts audience. This combination of content and design earns it the top spot.

2nd Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com offers a diverse range of timely content, including news, entertainment, and sports, presented with a dynamic and visually engaging homepage. The site's multimedia elements and engaging layout make it a top contender.

3rd Place: Taylor Haynes

VTDigger.org

VTDigger is a strong source for investigative journalism.

The website excels in usability and content quality, but its minimalist homepage design feels less dynamic compared to competitors. We would have liked more visual appeal and interactivity.

Best Overall Website

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Staff

The Ellsworth American

ellsworthamerican.com

The Ellsworth American combines well-organized, timely content with a design that fully utilizes screen space, creating a visually immersive experience. Its local news coverage is thorough and relevant to its audience. The advertising is well-integrated, making the site engaging and easy to navigate.

2nd Place: Graham Smith

Vineyard Gazette

vineyardgazette.com

The Vineyard Gazette delivers excellent content with high-quality photography and clean design. The site is visually appealing and easy to use.

3rd Place: Staff

Seven Days

Seven Days offers diverse and engaging content on Vermont's news and culture.

Best Podcast

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Edward Fitzpatrick, Megan Hall

The Boston Globe

Rhode Island Report podcast

2nd Place: Jennifer Smith

CommonWealth Beacon

Pulling the thread on North Shore racial covenants

3rd Place: Sean McAdam, Chris Cotillo

MassLive

The Fenway Rundown

Entertainment or Feature Video

Combined Class

1st Place: Heather Morrison

MassLive

This Massachusetts ICU is filled with kittens
Endearing video, lively upbeat background music. I don't
even like cats and I want to adopt one!

2nd Place: Eva Sollberger

Seven Days

Digging into the Ravine That Divided Burlington in the
1800s
Extensive research done to produce this video.

3rd Place: Taylor Sanzo

MassLive

See rare, smelly Voodoo Lily blooming at Magic Wings
Butterfly Conservatory
"Look of Regret"

3rd Place: David Cifarelli

MassLive

Peabody Irish pub put on the map for giant espresso
martini, margarita tree

MultiMedia Coverage

Combined Class

1st Place: Staff

MassLive

UMass Amherst dining project
This entry sets the gold standard for multimedia coverage.
The sheer breadth of the package—including TikToks,
YouTube videos, photo galleries, and live content—creates
an immersive, multi-platform storytelling experience. The
reporting dives into the history, people, and innovation
behind UMass Dining, complemented by visuals and
narratives that cater to diverse audience preferences. With
over 25,000 page views, it effectively engages its audience
while leveraging multiple formats to elevate the story.

2nd Place: Jeff Baron, Joe Sexton

Seven Days

Loss of Grace

This entry delivers an incredibly immersive and

investigative multimedia package. By including links to
source documents, a full-length audio narration by the
author, and key audio recordings, the story builds
credibility and transparency while engaging the audience
deeply. The multimedia elements enhance the storytelling
and set a high bar for investigative reporting.

3rd Place: Sophie Mann-Shafir, Elias Duncan, Nancy
Bloom

Provincetown Independent

Jamaican Congregation Loses Its Home in Truro (print,
photography, video)

This entry effectively combines video, photography, and
print articles to tell a deeply emotional and community-
focused story. The inclusion of visual storytelling through
a YouTube video adds a compelling layer, while the
articles provide critical depth and context. Strong
execution overall, though tighter integration of multimedia
elements could enhance cohesion.

News Video

Combined Class

1st Place: Eva Sollberger

Seven Days

Plainfield Recovers From Catastrophic Flood

This video about the devastation caused by the
catastrophic flooding in Plainfield is emotional, intense,
and informational.

2nd Place: NHPBS, Marlin Fitzwater Center for
Communications

Granite State News Collaborative

The State We're In

Very interesting interview on viruses now and since the
pandemic. The interviewer's questions were well prepared.

3rd Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

From seed to harvest — a year of growth at Full Well
Farm

The video is outstanding in this project covering the Full
Well Farm. We would have liked more audio explaining
what they were doing and why.

3rd Place: Mark Guerringue, Rob Struble

The Conway Daily Sun

Joe Lentini interview

This video was on a fascinating subject. The pacing of the interview was a little slow to start.

Social Media Engagement

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive at Boston Calling

This entry stands out in the Social Media Engagement category for its dynamic, real-time storytelling that brought the festival to life. As their first time sending a team of reporters, they delivered vibrant social videos, still photos, video and articles that captured the event's energy and culture. With a focus on connecting with younger audiences, their multi-platform approach ensured meaningful engagement, making this submission a clear winner.

2nd Place: Colin Booth

Granite Post

Republican State Rep Says People With Dark Skin Should Carry ID While Hiking in NH

This second-place entry stands out for its sharp reporting and significant engagement. The video captured a controversial comment by NH Republican State Rep. John Hunt about individuals with dark skin carrying ID while hiking, contextualized within a broader trespassing policy debate. With 16,668 interactions, including 14,122 likes and 1,147 shares, this piece demonstrates the power of social media to spark meaningful conversation.

3rd Place: David Cifarelli

MassLive

Giant espresso martini on social media

This entry secures third place in the Social Media Engagement category by sheer engagement numbers and impressive reach. Highlighting a Peabody Irish pub's giant espresso martini margarita tree, the content captivated audiences across platforms, achieving 2.4 million views on Instagram and 320,000 views on TikTok. This remarkable performance showcases the publisher's ability to leverage viral content for widespread exposure and audience engagement.

Sports Video

Combined Class

1st Place: Lloyd Jones, Rob Struble

The Conway Daily Sun

Grace Castonguay interview

Engaging interview. Lloyd really drew out Grace's personality.

2nd Place: Meredith Perri

MassLive

WATCH: The Road to a State Championship Show with MassLive, Franklin TV and the MIAA

Entertaining video about the road to a state championship.

Spot News Video

Combined Class

1st Place: Eva Sollberger

Seven Days

'Stuck in Vermont' During the Eclipse

Contemporary Issues Photo

Combined Class

1st Place: Ray Ewing

Vineyard Gazette

Storm Aftermath

This photo is intriguing mainly because of the light. I had to dig around and read about the beach to understand what was going on. It is about timing, day, light, people, mood, and rule of third.

2nd Place: Sara Jane Gould

The Mashpee Enterprise

Annawon Weeden

A nice moment for an event. Photo would be stronger if significantly cropped.

3rd Place: Glenn Russell

VTDigger.org

Plainfield Apartment

It's hard to "find" someone after a natural disaster. Unsure if this person knows they were being photographed but it works.

Feature Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Marc Vasconcellos

The Enterprise

BSR Dance Crew of Brockton to perform at World Hip Hop International

Great framing and energy in this photo.

2nd Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

Drill School

Excellent use of light and camera angle.

3rd Place: Carol Lollis

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Three County Fair

A great slice of life at a community event.

Feature Photo

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Karen Wong

Duxbury Clipper

Lion Tamer

Love this photo! Really surprising and nice moment.

2nd Place: Lisa Aciukewicz

The Harvard Press

Artist-in-residence at work

Excellent framing of the subject and artist.

3rd Place: Tim Johnson

Vineyard Gazette

Dog Tess Jumps In at Owen Park

Excellent framing of the dog and the skyline.

General News Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Sarah Gordon

The Day

Coast Guard Commencement

This was a competitive category. Want to acknowledge the hard work in every day assignments that add richness to

our history and community living. I chose this photo as first place because it was such a nice composition with expressions and movement. It speaks to women being acknowledged in the military - something we don't hear much about anymore, and it shows joy. Sometimes the happy moments win. The clean background and composition make this sing. I waffled between this image and the fallen soldier being carried off airplane. I chose joy because of the additional elements in the image.

2nd Place: Carol Lollis

Daily Hampshire Gazette

UMass Student Protest

I waffled between this photo and the fallen soldier being carried off the plane. It came down to caption. The fallen hero image didn't include any caption, and so I had to do more work to read what was going on. Reporting matters. Also, this assignment is a hard one to capture - you never know if anything is going to "happen" and this shows the photography waiting until the end of a program and waiting - it also required the photographer to pay attention to those in the crowd. This photographer knew to get close to these two women to get the emotion. The caption could be better - it's vague.

3rd Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

Fallen hero comes home

A visual reminder that service comes at the highest price and I think the public, in general, forgets that our military and service members still die while in training and serving. It's a graphic image, quiet, powerful, and clean. Add captions for entries. Add quotes, tell a story - don't rely on "just" the image.

General News Photo

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

Pie in face Elisabeth Heck kindergarten excited

The best of the entries. Wish caption had more information like names of people. Image is so much better with emotion than other photos and it's such a solid composition that I couldn't overlook this moment. I'm seeing a trend in these entries that photographer think captions are optional. I think it should be required.

2nd Place: Gene Marchand

The Bourne Enterprise

Mayflower Transit

The light is what adds the mystique to this shot. Nice image. I waffled between this image and another but the caption really helped and gave context. Good job!

3rd Place: Annalise Sheppard

Mount Desert Islander

Residents show support for lodging tax

When the location is stereotypical New England and you love it. I'd add more contrast to the entry.

News Feature Photo

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: David Sokol

WickedLocal

Solemn Salute

A strong and quiet moment with a very successful use of leading lines with the row of officers in the foreground.

2nd Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

Bird banding

A really surprising and graphically please image.

3rd Place: CarolLollis

Daily Hampshire Gazette

New Hingham Music

Sweet generational moment and yet another reason why community journalism is so important.

News Feature Photo

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Jen Manell

The Harvard Press

Barbie-styled lifeguards on parade July

2nd Place: Dena Porter

The Martha's Vineyard Times

The Island's hidden homeless

3rd Place: Brian Wood

New Boston Beacon

A Haunted Halloween Looms

News Feature Photo

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Ray Ewing

Vineyard Gazette

Right Whale Washes Up on Vineyard Beach

2nd Place: Gordon Miller

News & Citizen

Morrisville Memorial Day

Personality Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Hannah Schroeder

The Keene Sentinel

Langdon Place lovers

A lot of moments in this category were posed. I really liked the candid nature of this image and sense of place as if I were a bystander in this slice of life.

2nd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Oozeball

While posing for someone else, this off angle image made me feel something. Any emotion that is evoked in a photograph will move it up in ranks over a static portrait.

Photo Illustration

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Plunder Dome

Photo Series

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Yehyun Kim, Katy Golvala

The Connecticut Mirror

A Diaspora in Focus

A deeply moving and visually compelling series that captures the rich cultural identity and lived experiences of the Asian diaspora in Connecticut. The storytelling is immersive, offering a powerful blend of portraits, community moments, and historical context. This series stands out for its depth, emotional resonance, and journalistic excellence.

2nd Place: David Sokol

WickedLocal

Farming for Oysters

An outstanding visual exploration of oyster farming, capturing the hard work, precision, and natural beauty of the process. The series balances action shots, environmental imagery, and intimate close-ups, giving viewers an understanding of this labor-intensive industry.

3rd Place: Merrily Cassidy

Cape Cod Times

AmeriCorps Cape Cod Year 25

A well-executed series that highlights the impact of AmeriCorps volunteers across Cape Cod. The images showcase the dedication and teamwork involved in conservation efforts, disaster preparedness, and community service. The series effectively documents both the people and their work, creating a compelling narrative of service and commitment.

Photo Story

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Pheasant stocking

Really sophisticated storytelling for this story. You have a sense of place, details and surprises. Very well done.

2nd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Farmers Daughter

A great slice of life story.

3rd Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

What it takes to be a firefighter

A very well-rounded story with a variety of moments, perspectives and lens choices.

Photo Story

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Ray Ewing

Vineyard Gazette

Storm Aftermath

Excellent storm coverage. A variety of scenes and points in the storm.

2nd Place: Elias Duncan

Provincetown Independent

The End Is Only the Beginning of a Garden's Path to Summer Glory

Excellent use of lensing, including details and sense of place.

3rd Place: Gary Higgins

Boston Business Journal

Singer Blade Works

Really strong detail photos in this story.

Pictorial Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: David Sokol

The MetroWest Daily News

Bailey's Beads Eclipse

Technically challenging content and photographer nailed it. Beautiful image and problem-solving skills to produce a striking image. Well done!!

2nd Place: Ben Garver

The Berkshire Eagle

Practically pickleball

Nice every day moment captured in a graphic aerial/drone shot that sparked interest. Actually captured the "verb" of people doing something.

3rd Place: Ben Garver

The Berkshire Eagle

Strokes of summer

Better than other images and it's nice action. Photographer needed some room for photo and rowers to breathe, in my opinion. Just shot too tight. I wanted to see room/water of them heading toward something instead of such tight crop.

Pictorial Photo

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Dottie Nelson

Addison County Independent

Snow Geese

I loved this shot. How often do we get to study geese this closely while they are flying? I know it's a simple shot, but effective and interesting. I'm almost shocked I chose a migration photo but it's graphic, detailed, and honestly, I think it's the one goose cut off at the top right corner that captured my attention - of all things.

2nd Place: Tom Dame

Vineyard Gazette

Geminid meteor shower over Edgartown Lighthouse
Technical skills made this a serious contender for first place, but exposure is off just a little and shot needs more toning to really hit that note of spectacular. It *just* missed the mark technically.

3rd Place: Sara Jane Gould

The Falmouth Enterprise

Snow, Sand, Sunrise

Because of the light, effort in composition, and mood.

Portrait Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Stephanie Zollshan

The Berkshire Eagle

Norton Owen

I chose this image because of the composition, the planning for lighting, the foreground leading to the subject, and the photo tells me this has something to do with archives although there is no caption (huge pet peeve for judges like me who want to see the effort and pride in captions).

2nd Place: Hannah Schroeder

The Keene Sentinel

Cow cuddles

The only photo that intrigued me but didn't see enough of cattle to know it was cattle. Had to read the caption. So, I wondered what the photographer shot in their series of images that might have given more away of this being an animal. There is something relaxing about the woman lying on the animal. Had there been more visual information in the photograph, I would have awarded this first place. Good job capturing this tender moment.

3rd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Flag bearer

Imagine the strength of this image if the person had looked directly into the camera? It's a clean image and solid clean background. Never underestimate the power of eye contact for portraits. It's okay to spend time with a person to get the shot. It allows people to be SEEN.

Portrait Photo

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Jeanna Shepard

Vineyard Gazette

Kate Lizotte

Best of the entries with portrait. Could use some cropping for impact and maybe a slightly different angle like shooting down a little more on her. Pleasant photo

2nd Place: Ray Ewing

Vineyard Gazette

Robbie Moriarty

Americana image - saw this in another category and was glad photographer moved it to portrait because this APPEARS to be a shot of a kid "doing" for the camera - making it a portrait during a live event. Nice shot.

3rd Place: Gary Higgins

Boston Business Journal

Sieh Samura, co-founder of Yamba Market

This photo captures a very colorful, remarkable space—there's so much happening here. The photographer clearly appreciates art and risks. There's definitely potential for an even more striking image. Using a longer lens could bring the perspective of the hanging plates closer, adding depth and interest. Even the chairs are badass—a way to frame him with chairs? This is a solid start, but would advise photographer to take more risks - what could go wrong? You don't like a shot, change the composition and move on but try to shake things up.

Sports Action Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Eyes on the ball

A clean background is key to having a great action photo. One can have the greatest moment, but if the background is distracting, than everything is lost. This image had a clean background and layering. But it also had the most unique moment of the category with the goalie's glasses falling off. Congrats!

2nd Place: Sarah Gordon

The Day

Soccer Kick

This image had a clean background and one of the strongest peak moments in the category. I kept going back and forth between this and first place. In the end, this is a fantastic image. However, first placed offered a more unique moment with a better background. Congrats to the photographer for a solid peak action image.

3rd Place: Jim Shannon

Republican-American

Soccer Action at the Goal

The eyes and layering made this a strong contender amongst some strong podium placed images. Had it been a little cleaner it would have gone up in placement.

Sports Action Photo

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

Tiger #20 hit by pitch

Perfectly timed image that was the standout in the category.

2nd Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

Grey at the finish cross country

Any runner knows this feeling. Whether digging deep to win or pass the competitor in front of you, it's an image that makes you feel the depleting energy of an athlete.

3rd Place: Steve James

Addison County Independent

skier in gates Alpine Katie Fynn

Clean backgrounds are key to sports photography. The poles added an artistic elements to that and made for one a podium placement.

Sports Feature Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Ron Schloerb

Cape Cod Times

Referee protection

This was an instant winner. In sports, the official is seen an impartial no matter what the circumstance. However, this photographer was able to humanize the referee pictured which evokes an emotion and makes this a clear winner in this category.

2nd Place: Kris Craig

Providence Journal

Splash down

The ability to get close is always important in sports. Access is not always granted, yet when photographers are able to take advantage of it, it always makes for a more compelling feature than one shot with a longer lens.

3rd Place: Mark Jarrett Chavous

The Enterprise

Clearing away the hurdles: Brockton student pushing hurdles after event ends

Many images in the category suffered for technical issues or where too far away. While this image doesn't have much emotion, the fact that the photographer got close and was able to see some patterns, art in the frame to clean it up helped rise it up against the rest.

Spot News Photo

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Marc Vasconcellos

The Enterprise

House fire victim

2nd Place: Merrily Cassidy

Cape Cod Times

Dolphin stranding night release

Spot News Photo

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Sebastian Restrepo

MassLive

Wilbraham active shooter

2nd Place: Glenn Russell

VTDigger.org

January storm

Spot News Photo

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Gordon Miller

Stowe Reporter

Water rescue

2nd Place: Kip Wing

Mount Desert Islander

Black ice causes dump truck to slide off roadway

Overall Design and Presentation (Niche Product)

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Julie Hammill

The B

The B Magazine, Issue 6

A strong magazine, with a sense of pacing, from shorter pieces in the front of the book to longer features at the back. The designer seems to understand its audience, working in a classic New England aesthetic in the typography. The varied typographic and visual choices make this a strong presentation throughout.

2nd Place: Staff, Diane Sullivan, Sean Metcalf

Seven Days

Welcome to Las Daysies: All the Best

I was skeptical of the Las Vegas theme, but the theme is carried throughout with a strong sense of architecture throughout the issue.

3rd Place: Jane McTeigue, Susie Middleton

Vineyard Gazette

Island Guide 2024

The pages are clean, with a crisp grid and the breakouts with many of the article is a nice touch, giving many of the stories multiple entry points. The cover photo is lovely, but is let down by the lackluster type setting, especially when compared to the deep consistency shown throughout the inside of the book.

3rd Place: Kris Rabasca, Nicole Jackson

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Vineyard Visitor, Early Summer 2024

The careful use of color and typography throughout the inside of the book demonstrates a strong sense of structure and pacing for a publication.

Overall Design and Presentation (print newspaper)

Combined Class

1st Place: Seven Days Design Team

Seven Days

Totally Transfixed

This is a great cover, with a great headline design and use of imagery. The inside of the book is also well structured, with cleanly executed features throughout and a strong sense of structure and pacing.

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Eagle, Nov. 4, 2023

It's hard to make compelling designs out of local elections, but the front page has an eye-catching centerpiece design and the execution of election coverage on the inside pages is solid. Past that it's a very solidly designed broadsheet print newspaper.

3rd Place: Staff

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich Local News

This is a cleanly designed publication, and I admire the designer's restraint, showcasing a consistent approach with sans serif typography, color and layout.

Overall Design and Presentation (Special Section)

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Mitchell Hayes

Worcester Business Journal

Outstanding Women in Business - 15th anniversary
The variety of story telling strategies within the book helps give a lot of variation to these pages despite most of the visuals being traditional business portraits. Alongside stories with factboxes there are quote-driven pieces and tables. There's a lot of variety to the design that keeps readers engaged.

2nd Place: Sarah Pope

Addison County Independent

Weddings Nov. 2, 2023

Great cover. The interior pages are cleanly designed, and I like the headline treatments with the typeface and the green. I also liked the more ambitious photo-driven spread in the interior. I wish the more traditional stories had a bit more variety in how the visuals were played.

2nd Place: Matt Selva

Mainebiz

2023 40 Under 40 issue

Sharp cover design with cleanly designed interior pages. The cutouts are nice and elegant.

3rd Place: staff

Stowe Reporter

RIDE 2024

Nice cover with cleanly designed interior pages. I like the variety of storytelling here with the map in the back of the section.

Overall Design and Presentation (Specialty)

Weekly Newspapers

2nd Place: Mitchell Hayes

Worcester Business Journal

Worcester Business Journal

This is a very cleanly and professionally designed publication, with a consistent visual voice throughout the book. There's a mixture of different storytelling techniques, from features to briefs, and photos to pie charts, tables and bar charts. There's just a lot of variety here to keep readers engaged. I think the little graphics with the cover story are great on the spread, but I wish there was a little more conceptual rigor to their use on the cover. Could it have simply been a droopy marijuana leaf give some kind of distressed texture to "taint" it a bit?

3rd Place: Staff

Nantucket Bluedot

Nantucket Green Guide

Overall, this section has a very consistent approach. I like the designer's use of typography, which generates a lot of variety and interest in what could have been rote packages of composed of nature pictures. This is a designer actively trying to make things happen and to generate interest. I have a couple of critiques. I wish the cover was stronger, with more hierarchy between the cover lines, and a more thoughtful deployment of the furniture. I admire the designer's "go-for-it" approach, but some of the type on photos are not strong in terms of readability/legibility. Finally, I like the inclusion of information graphics, but some of these are handout and not particularly clear in their meaning.

3rd Place: Kris Rabasca, Connie Berry

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Arts & Ideas, Summer 2024

This is a crisply designed publication, with a bright and airy feel. This inside pages are very consistent, with a cohesive typographic and color palette. I think the danger in that is the texture of the product becomes a little same-y as one flips through the book. I like the cleanliness of the cover design with the strong hierarchy with the cover lines. It feels like there's a nameplate and then the circle logo and then you've got the newspaper logotype at the bottom. It feels like a lot and I wish the furniture was better integrated so that the content of the cover gets more impact.

3rd Place: Staff

The Manchester Cricket

Cricket Holiday Book 2023

This publication feels ambitious, and that makes the design come to life. There seems to be a real attempt to create pacing, with bringing in a table of contents and an editor's letter before a few shorter features and then the big shopping spreads, which are very dynamic. This doesn't place higher for me because I wish the detail work was stronger. Setting the type with justification is fine, but it seems like the hyphenation, justification and spacing settings haven't been well massaged to cleanly set type, particularly in the more narrow column measures which have a few "rivers." On page 6, what appears to be an AI illustration could have been played across the full tab width, which would have put more text in the awkward legs on the jump pages on 8 and 9, which would have lead to an overall cleaner set of designs. I love that the designer really went to work on the cover, and the result is solid. But I wish there were fewer elements used more rigorously. Could the cricket etching work with the Manchester Cricket text to form some kind of logotype? It feels like "Holiday Book" has too many different colors ... some which feel more summer than Christmas. This is a solid design overall, but really dialing into all the choices would make for a more compelling work by harnessing the ambition to generate more consistency in approach.

Political Columnist

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Dalton Delan

The Berkshire Eagle

The Unspin Room

2nd Place: Don Morrison

The Berkshire Eagle

Political Columnist: Don Morris

3rd Place: John L. Micek

MassLive

John L. Micek political columnist

Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Paul Edward Parker

Providence Journal

The Fight of Their Lives

We cannot change history, but this entry illustrates the power of bearing witness to even the ugliest chapters of a community's past. Through deep reporting, elegant writing and clever use of archival materials, this project educates readers about how Jim Crow-era anti-Black violence extended far beyond the South.

2nd Place: James Rinker

The Keene Sentinel

N.H. Senate considering bill to ban gender-affirming surgeries that hospitals say they don't perform

This thoroughly reported story provides facts and local context that counter inaccuracies in the ongoing and often hyperbolic debate over access to gender affirming care for trans kids.

3rd Place: Greg Sukiennik

The Berkshire Eagle

Familiar animosity permeated at semifinals

A concise and vivid account of racism in high school sports.

Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Bhaamati Borkhetaria

CommonWealth Beacon

Social equity marijuana businesses sold 'bag of dreams'
An excellent (and infuriating!) deep dive into inequities in the burgeoning cannabis market.

2nd Place: Auditi Guha

VTDigger.org

'Heroes of resiliency'

This story explores the intersection of federal immigration policy and disaster recovery to illustrate how deep inequities are impacting a beloved local business owner.

Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Rachel Hellman

Seven Days

Taking Refuge

This thoroughly reported feature story humanizes the ongoing debate about access to gender affirming care for trans children and teens and illustrates the national consequences of state-level policy changes.

2nd Place: Robert F. Smith

The Commons

Elnu Abenaki move forward amid questions about lineage

This story tackles the complex history of indigenous identity in Vermont, mixing human voices with smart explanations of policy, tradition and culture.

3rd Place: Lindsey Byman

Ipswich Local News

Lindsey Byman's Immigration Series

At a time when immigration policy is major national news, this series of stories looks at how one community is responding to global migration.

3rd Place: Isabel Hart

Boston Business Journal

“Frustrating and disheartening”: VC funding for Black, Latino startups plummeted in 2023

A smart look at inequity in the venture capital sector that educates readers about a often-overlooked piece of the economy.

Reporting on Religious Issues

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Annie Jonas

Boston.com

Divisions shake Jewish Bostonian families amid Israel-Hamas war

Strong look at the tensions in the Jewish Community caused by the Israel -Hamas war. The best part are the personal stories which take a global conflict and show how it plays out in families and friends-- with experts to provide context

2nd Place: Jonny Williams

Providence Journal

Deaf church services

A well-written feature about a deaf faith community - has a slice of life feel to it with great details and strong characters-- and story telling that brings this community to life for readers

3rd Place: Larry Parnass

The Republican

Will new day dawn for adult victims of clergy abuse?

A well reported look at the complicated topic of clergy abuse involving adults.

3rd Place: Henry Schwan

Telegram & Gazette

We will survive

A look at the impact of a flood on a Jewish congregation - gives a real feel for what it means to lose a sacred space.

Reporting on Religious Issues

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Sophie Mann-Shafir

Provincetown Independent

Community Rallies to Save a Jamaican Congregation's Home (3-part series)

One of the best set of stories I've read all year. Smart beat reporting and great story telling, full of unexpected turns. This started out out with seemed like an ordinary story about a church losing its lease and turned into something special

2nd Place: Meg Smith

Worcester Magazine

A light, a way of life

Really nice feature on Orthodox Christian communities that often get overlooked. Good mix of showing the social and spiritual side of religion

3rd Place: John Flowers

Addison County Independent

As pews fill up, Middlebury churches need room

A surprising story about the post COVID growth of a Vermont Mainline - with good details and context.

Right-to-Know

Combined Class

1st Place: Katherine Revello

CT Inside Investigator

Katherine Revello FOIA Investigations

Amazingly detailed reports of exhaustive reporting rooted in information requests and disclosure. Outstanding example of how to counter public skepticism about the nature and quality of journalism in 2024.

2nd Place: Eunki Seonwoo

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Details emerge on Sankaty mishap

Excellent and comprehensive report, both on the incident involved and on the mechanism and effort expended to get the information -- all in a well-written, compelling manner.

3rd Place: Joan Eliyesil and John Osborn

The Harvard Press

Open Meeting Law Violation and Remedy

A prime example where a news operation can hold government accountable without rancor, and produce immediate positive results for the community. A working knowledge of state open meeting laws played a part as well.

3rd Place: Brad Petrishen

Telegram & Gazette

Right to know entry - City pulls online checkbook

A compelling example of the power of holding government accountable and also pursuing the reasoning behind reduced public access to government activity, particularly spending. The stories show pursuit of the reasoning behind the reduced information access, reaction from open government groups around the state, and an ultimate reversal of the decision to close down information access and replacement with what appears to be a responsive system with security aspects built in. Solid reporting, excellent outcome.

Science/Technology Reporting

Combined Class

1st Place: Greta Jochem

The Republican

Fighting the 'forever' problem

This deeply and broadly reported investigative feature exemplifies the vitality of great science journalism to local communities. The team behind the "Forever Problem" took one of the most pressing and confounding environmental concerns of our age and showed how it was impacting the Greater Springfield region. The various stakeholders and

their views are portrayed with nuance and dignity without understating the concern posed by PFAS contamination. First-class work.

2nd Place: Doug Cooper, Tara Kenny, Jamie Kageleiry
Bluedot Living MV

Our Landscapes: How We See Them, How We Save Them
Great science journalism is always interrogating the craft itself—how can we better tell stories about the complex systems animating the world around us? "Our Landscapes" shows what happens when creative editorial minds take on that challenge: An innovative, visually arresting, narratively stimulating take on the geology underlying one of Massachusetts' greatest natural treasures—Martha's Vineyard.

3rd Place: Emily Spatz

Boston.com

What is ShotSpotter? Controversial gunshot detection technology facing increasing scrutiny

An ambitiously thorough work of technology journalism that seamlessly delves into the social and political implications of advances in police surveillance and what it means for communities in Greater Boston. The reporter doesn't merely provide a platform for the opposing claims by the tech company and its critics, but interprets and contextualizes them in a way that illuminates a larger story about criminal justice and minority policing.

The story, pegged to the decision, last May, of various Massachusetts legislators to call for a DHS investigation of a criminal surveillance tech company,

Serious Columnist

Combined Class

1st Place: Bob Waite

Ipswich Local News

Bob Waite - Serious Columns

With candor, Bob Waite explores the many facets of a local community while educating readers before they even know it's happened. With a casual style and welcoming prose, Waite balances personal stories with locals' narratives to make each column a must read.

2nd Place: Bill Eville

Vineyard Gazette

Time Traveling; Weary World Rejoice

It's hard to pack humor into a serious column but, before readers notice it, they might be chuckling at the columns of Bill Eville (for example, when a stranger tells him "I'm in love with your wife" or his musings on air traffic control for turkeys). He writes about religion, joy and growing up with touching grace, all with his dog Artichoke beside him.

3rd Place: Karl Lindholm

Addison County Independent

column Rip Van Winkle and Nuf Ced

With candor and ease Karl Lindholm explores topics with breadth, from Chat GPT to the history of a Red Sox anthem. With an easy style, his reminiscences teach readers, even if they didn't come to his column to learn. Yet more than that, readers will have fun as they read, and heed, his wonderful words.

Social Issues Feature Story

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Dan D'Ambrosio

Burlington Free Press

A farm worker who fled violence in Guatemala to build a life in Vermont may lose it all.

This poignant and beautifully written portrait deconstructs the hypocrisy of the American dream -- and pulls the curtains back on the xenophobes who are hiding behind theirs.

2nd Place: Rachael Devaney

Cape Cod Times

Mashpee brewery is at the center of a culture clash. Can both sides move forward together?

A fascinating framing of a clash of cultures, deeply reported and elegantly told.

3rd Place: Seth Chitwood

The Standard-Times

The 20th anniversary of gay marriage is on May 17. How far have LGBTQ+ rights come since?

Beautifully localizes and humanizes a transcendent moment.

Social Issues Feature Story

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Irene Rotondo, Luis Fieldman

MassLive

How migrants sleeping at Logan Airport spend their days and nights

This compelling story humanizes the growing migrant population and takes the reader into a scene that's likely to become tragically more commonplace in the months and years to come.

2nd Place: Juliet Schulman-Hall

MassLive

Northampton homeless encampment concerns neighbors as Mass. shelters reach capacity

The reporter's commanding use of detail and color takes readers right into the frigid tents of a homeless encampment ... we can almost see our own breath and feel the plight of the unhoused.

3rd Place: Ginny Monk

The Connecticut Mirror

They found lead in their apartment complex. But who is responsible?

Captures the fear and anguish of too many enduring a fundamentally fixable problem. Great reporting.

Social Issues Feature Story

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Don Seiffert

Boston Business Journal

(Second) chance opportunities

This is startling and illuminating reporting that pulls back the curtain on a segment of society few of us think much about.

2nd Place: Brooke Kushwaha

Vineyard Gazette

Migrants Return to Vineyard a Year Later for Heartfelt Reunion

A beautifully written account of a surprising reunion; one that can't help but portend more indignities yet to be heaped upon human beings who find themselves as pawns of the far right.

3rd Place: Derek Brouwer

Seven Days

The Fight for Decker Towers

A revelatory deep dive into a local showdown that's become something of a microcosm for America's most troubling social ills.

Special Section or Editorial Supplement

Combined Class

2nd Place: Michael M. McMahon and Julia Badders
The Keene Sentinel
Players of the Year 2024
Loved the cover!

This keepsake edition shows significant effort. The edition covers every sport under the sun. Wow! The pictures are excellent, and the overall layout is appealing. Good job with the ad layouts.

3rd Place: Staff
Worcester Business Journal
WBJ Power 100

This magazine is designed to be reader-friendly, presenting news for business leaders in a vibrant and engaging format. It effectively organizes the Power 100 leaders by various industry sectors, making it easy to find prominent decision-makers in the area. The layout is also intuitive, allowing for smooth navigation to locate key power brokers.

Special Section or Editorial Supplement

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Staff
The Manchester Cricket
Cricket Holiday Book 2023
Outstanding design and photography in this publication! The layouts are clean and crisp, and the “Out shopping, right now” feature is beautifully presented. The ad design is also clean and really stands out.

2nd Place: Sarah Pope and John McCright
Addison County Independent
Weddings Nov. 2, 2023
A lot of effort went into this special edition! It has feel-good messaging with a lot of heart, featuring local couples throughout the piece. The edition is aesthetically pleasing and has a clean design.

3rd Place: Seven Days Staff
Seven Days
Nest: Summer 2024
This publication is extremely successful from an advertising perspective. Congratulations! The photography is excellent, featuring engaging locals. The design is clean and relatively easy on the eyes.

Special Sports Section

Combined Class

1st Place: Messenger Staff
Saint Albans Messenger
Elle St. Pierre Olympic Special
Excellent commemoration of a very special local athlete who went on to compete in the Olympics. The stories and photos captured the strong ties between Elle and her community!

1st Place: Jamie Cushman
The Inquirer and Mirror
Fall Sports Extra
Incredible local sports coverage and preview of all of the high school teams. Very thorough and the photos and graphics are terrific.

2nd Place: Phil Stacey, Matt Williams
The Salem News
All-time great sports debates
Such a unique look at local sports issues. The range of topics and issues are so diverse and interesting. The photos make the stories pop and the writing is exceptional.

3rd Place: George Clondas
The Falmouth Enterprise
On Cape Magazine Cape Cod Baseball League
Great source for everything Cape Cod Baseball League. In depth look at the history of the league as well as each team. Phenomenal photos and a very crisp layout.

Sports Columnist

Combined Class

1st Place: Chris Cotillo
MassLive
Chris Cotillo sports columnist
Cotillo's writing is sharp, well-sourced, and densely packed with facts, analysis and context.

2nd Place: Phil Stacey
The Salem News
North Shore high school hockey columns
Stacey's writing shows a deep knowledge of the landscape of the sport he covers that bolsters his analysis and aims to educate the reader.

3rd Place: Karl Lindholm

Addison County Independent

Sports column Mind over Matter and Bill Lee by Lindholm

Lindholm has a pleasant lightness to his writing that pairs well with the warm regards he has for the individuals he covers.

Sports Feature Story

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Tom Mooney

Providence Journal

Ukrainian basketball players

"I've never eaten so much borscht in my life!" Nice job not only telling the story but providing behind-the-scenes details that make any good feature come alive.

2nd Place: Roberta Baker

New Hampshire Union Leader

Dan Egan, extreme skier

Love the rich detail and crisp writing. Skiing down the Berlin Wall? Wow!

3rd Place: Phil Stacey

The Salem News

When 'the game' turned 100: Beverly, Salem players recall 1998 all-time classic

Excellent institutional knowledge at work.

Sourcing/interviews make readers feel like they were at the game.

Sports Feature Story

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Chris Mason

MassLive

How Drake Maye's family forged unflinching confidence in Patriots QB

A stellar profile of a family with rich detail and reporting that can only come from making the trip and seeing it with your own eyes. Well done.

2nd Place: Chris Cotillo

MassLive

Months after tragedy, Garrett Whitlock brings newfound perspective to Red Sox camp

Nice job handling a difficult story with care and grace. Gavie's family should be grateful.

3rd Place: Conor Ryan

Boston.com

Meet 'Little B' and the Bruins fans behind David Pastrnak's new bear suit

The best part of this story might be the idea. Anyone can write about a hat trick. It is something else entirely to write about the hats (although I think we might be stretching the definition here!)

Sports Feature Story

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Greg Ryan, Grant Welker, Hannah Green

Boston Business Journal

Torched

The strength of this story lies in the reporting — clearly, a difficult topic for many of the key subjects, and it was handled carefully. The detail is excellent throughout. Well done.

2nd Place: Lisa Lynn

VT Ski + Ride

VT SKI + RIDE Saving the Ski Hill

Well written and reported story with a bit of drama about the future of these local gems. Next time I'm rushing up to Killington myself, I'm going to use the handy list to find one!

3rd Place: Trevor Hass

Duxbury Clipper

Defying the Odds

This story confirms that our best sports features are often not about our best athletes. Nice work not just writing/reporting this one, but keeping up with a former athlete who might have been forgotten.

Sports Section

Combined Class

1st Place: Jamie Cushman

The Inquirer and Mirror

Sports Section

The coverage of the local lacrosse championship was exquisitely covered, with two articles that moved beyond the current moment to put the victory in much larger context and link it the sporting and social history of the area. The writing did a job balancing the focus between the team and the community and this is reinforced by the excellent photographic selections that accompanied the piece, particularly the large, engaging front page photo that captured the excitement of the moment and the meaning it had for team and community alike.

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

Berkshire Eagle Sports, Feb. 26, 2024

The Berkshire Eagle's sports section contains a vibrant and engaging layout. The repeated use of large action photos, unique titles and font styling/colors, and score graphics provides a "front page" experience on multiple pages. Paired with the well reported articles that accompany the visuals, the section carries an energy throughout.

3rd Place: Gary Dzen, Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com Sports Section

Boston.com's coverage of the Boston Marathon was comprehensive and full of variety. In addition to the expected articles on the logistics and competitive elements of the event, the coverage also engaged with the cultural and historical significance of the event to runners and the local area alike.

Sports Story

Daily Newspapers

1st Place: Greg Sukiennik

The Berkshire Eagle

Spitting incident sparks outrage

Strong lede that sets the scene for a very detailed story.

Credit to the writer for reaching out to everyone who possibly could have responded to the alleged incident from the other team. Nice to see the story on the front page as well.

2nd Place: Michael M. McMahon

The Keene Sentinel

Uplifting: Monadnock powerlifting club is raising the bar
The lede is simply perfect, grabbing the reader by the hand and almost walks you back to this weight room. The writer does an excellent job of filling the story with details and info from the coach to the student all the while the reader feels as if they're in that room watching. Nicely done.

3rd Place: Garrett Cote

Daily Hampshire Gazette

'Nice call ref': High officials face fan criticism
Rare situation where writing from the first-person standpoint helps the writer tell the story better. It helps put the reader in the stands almost able to hear what's being yelled at officials, then the writer details the many challenges they face explaining why their numbers are dwindling.

Sports Story

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Conor Ryan

Boston.com

David Krejci let his play do the talking on hockey's brightest stages

Great writing that is simply a pleasure to read. Smooth and deft writing that mimics the topic of the story's own play style with delightful turns of phrases.

2nd Place: Chris Cotillo

MassLive

Red Sox' Jarren Duran on MLB warning over shirt: 'A fine I'd be happy to pay'

Great lead that sucks the reader in immediately putting you inside that locker room reading the letter. Answers every question on why the player wore the phrase and how popular the phrase has become with lots of details to back that up. Pleasure to read.

3rd Place: Meredith Perri

MassLive

Coaches' miscommunication leaves swimmers out of championship as MIAA upholds deadline policy

Short, succinct lede sucks the reader in and makes this a must-read story packed with color and information that keeps a reader going to the end.

Sports Story

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Liberty Darr

The Other Paper

Tell-tale heart: Pickleball racket in South Burlington prompts resident petition

The writer does an excellent job of flipping a fast-growing sport over and looking at the challenges brought by four new courts. The description of balls click-clacking, hard, plastic racquets and speeding cars make me as a reader want to close a window to stop noise this story literally makes me hear.

2nd Place: Andy Kirkaldy

Addison County Independent

Sixth straight Panther field hockey title

Riveting start and a great lede playing off why a baseball cliché is a cliché for a reason. Taut storytelling and good use of play-by-play to set the tension and stakes.

3rd Place: Avalon Styles-Ashley

Stowe Reporter

SprigSlog

From the opening graf, the writer puts the reader into a unique world and keeps you reading with color, details and specifics. The quote on the dramatic difference with Minneapolis combined with small tidbits like pulling invasive weeds and harvesting squash paints a complete picture.

Spot News Story

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Sun Journal

Mass shooting in Lewiston

The staff of the Sun Journal came together over an intense seven-hour period to cover an unimaginable community emergency, for an audience that desperate for minute-by-minute updates, clarity amid chaotic tips and rumors, and context to make sense of what was happening. They juggled print deadlines while rapidly delivering updates to a digital audience and managing the stress of their own families' closeness to the tragedy.

2nd Place: Emma Cotton

VTDigger.org

'Living in a nightmare'

3rd Place: Staff

Boston.com

Live updates: Pro-Palestinian protests roil Boston-area campuses

Spot News Story

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Fran Lynggaard Hansen and Jeff Potter

The Commons

Putney paper mill shuts down

The Commons recognized the importance of a breaking news story about the loss of a major industrial employer and responded with coverage that clearly laid out the facts and context for the broader community, provided concrete information and clarification for affected employees and their families, and provided rich information about the shutdown's place in local history and society.

2nd Place: Staff

Seven Days

A Hateful Act

3rd Place: Christine Legere

Provincetown Independent

Airman's Death Is Both a Protest and a Loss

Transportation Reporting

Daily Newspapers and Online News Sites

1st Place: Alex MacDougall

Daily Hampshire Gazette

A tale of two Main Streets

2nd Place: Molly Farrar

Boston.com

What is the MBTA Communities Act? More towns move to block multi-family zoning.

3rd Place: Brendan Crowley

The Connecticut Examiner

Asked Why Connecticut Pays Double for \$315M Rail Cars, CTDOT Offers No Answer

Transportation Reporting

Weekly Newspapers

1st Place: Jacquelyn Voghel, PBN Staff

Providence Business News

R.I.'s Painful Pinch Point

2nd Place: Dean Geddes

The Inquirer and Mirror

SSA crews: Current staffing "recipe for disaster"

2nd Place: Ethan Genter

Vineyard Gazette

Steamship Authority Crew Shortages Make Waves

3rd Place: Eric Casey

Worcester Business Journal

Parking paralysis

Rookie of the Year

Katie Castellani

Providence Business News

Judging this category, with so many strong entries, gave us great encouragement about the future of local journalism in New England. The excellent, impactful work produced by the nominated reporters was reflective of journalists with many more years of experience. Forced to select one winner, Katie Castellani of the Providence Business Journal demonstrated a blend of mastering difficult subject matters - healthcare and real estate development - with a veteran's skill at humanizing stories. In particular, her piece about hardships faced by women in the workforce called out issues of lower pay, lack of childcare options, harassment and gave meaning to the term "she-cession." Likewise, her work explaining the fate of two hospitals in Providence that are losing millions of dollars annually takes the reader into the numbers in a manner that explain the crisis in understandable terms. We found her ability - to make complex issues understandable and human - compelling and important. Congratulations, Katie.



Reporter of the Year

Aaron Calvin

Stowe Reporter



~

Photojournalist of the Year

Kris Craig

The Providence Journal



General Excellence

Daily Newspapers circulation 13,000+

1st Place: Staff

Republican-American

What doesn't this newspaper have? And it is all incredibly packaged, dazzling even. The writing, the design, the photography is unparalleled.

2nd Place: Staff

The Berkshire Eagle

You know you are in the Berkshires reading this newspaper. Especially music, wow can it cover music.

General Excellence

News Services and Online News Sites

1st Place: Staff

Boston.com

Boston.com

Boston.com balances investigative reporting with high reader engagement and broad content variety. It excels at both serious and casual storytelling, appealing to a wide audience. Most diverse range of content (hard news, investigative journalism, light-hearted features, audience engagement). Best in digital-first storytelling (interactive quizzes, explainers, topic hubs).

2nd Place: Staff

MassLive

MassLive general excellence

MassLive's investigative reporting is strong, but it lacks the same variety and interactivity that gives the first place entry the edge. Strong investigative depth (migrant crisis, police surveillance). A mix of serious hard news and more general news coverage.

3rd Place: Staff

VTDigger.org

VTDigger is outstanding in public service and civic engagement but is more niche and less varied in content compared to the top entries. Exceptional investigative journalism and community service, narrower content focus, and highly impactful.

General Excellence

Specialty Publications

1st Place: Staff

Boston Business Journal

The Boston Business Journal hits every mark for general excellence serving its audience with robust coverage.

2nd Place: PBN Staff

Providence Business News

3rd Place: Staff

Martha's Vineyard Bluedot Living

3rd Place: Lisa Lynn, David Pollard, Angelo Lynn

VT Ski + Ride

General Excellence

Weekly Newspapers circulation less than 5,000

1st Place: Staff

The Martha's Vineyard Times

This publication is richly deserving of its first place recognition in the General Excellence category. While there are dozens of reasons this newspaper rises to the top - among the most distinctifying elements are its fearless utilization of white space; its typography and spacing of copy; its diverse range and unique designs of its advertising; its editorial voice; clever and/or engaging headlines; easy to grasp infographics; its visually entertaining and informative calendar section; and use of 'Town Columns' that focus on the hyperlocal, while creating a sense of unity across the greater community the publication serves. Its YouTube channel is packed with great videos, and its photography makes for great visual storytelling that compliments its abutting related and unrelated editorial content.

2nd Place: Harvard Press Staff*The Harvard Press*

The Harvard Press should be proud of its resisting any compulsion to go full color just because most if not all of its regional competitors have. Its designers and editors display great talent delivering compelling photos, ads, and graphics along with colorful stories in a grayscale package. It's brilliant revenue generating tactic of tapping "sustainers" is a fresh twist on soliciting supportive philanthropy, and the edition we reviewed offered an exceptional service to its readers by breaking out and explaining everything anyone would need to know to be an informed participant in the community's upcoming Harvard Town Meeting. Extra points for its cool "Notice Board" and a wonderful editorial cartoon - which is so rarely found these days!

3rd Place: Staff*The Inquirer and Mirror*

The editions presented for this year's General Excellence category exhibited beautiful and creative design standards, with editorial content and advertising coexisting in very comfortable and engaging continuity. The use of big, bright photos and graphics, compelling headlines, dedicated and informative reporting, and utilization of reader input is top flight. The I&M's "This Week" special section showcases an amazing array of events, activities, and previews - its "Real Estate Review" is breathtaking - and its editorial presence and position is steadfast.

General Excellence

Weekly Newspapers circulation 5,000+

1st Place: Staff*The Ellsworth American*

Among tightly grouped contest entrants for their excellence in this category, The Ellsworth American best exemplifies what a community and its readers expect of their weekly newspaper. The American offers a superb mix of news stories and feature offerings. From the eye-pleasing backgrounds in its flagge through its plethora of community weekly staples done right -- including its comprehensive "Cops and Courts," its homespun "Heard Around Town" column, to its clean and sharply presented calendar and classified sections, the American shines. Its national debt report on Page One is a model that every newspaper in the country ought to publish as a public service.

2nd Place: Staff*Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*

The Monadnock Ledger-Transcript is a solid community paper whose contest entry features an exceptional special section on Jaffrey's 250th celebration. That section could serve as a model for how newspapers should handle historic community events. The section is comprehensive, well-planned and executed, well-illustrated, and covers the celebration from every conceivable angle.

3rd Place: Staff*Vineyard Gazette*

Vineyard Gazette The Vineyard Gazette Aug. 4 entry's Page One exemplifies the weekly's strengths: A clean look and an interesting story mix. Those traits persist throughout the Gazette's pages. Its takeout on downtown property ownership is an impressive feat of research, reporting, writing and layout. The Gazette offers a lively Living section. The weekly's writing is the most consistently sparkly among its peer community papers' entries in this category.