

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS JOURNALISM

INSIDE:
COMPLETE
LIST OF
FINALISTS
AND JUDGES'
COMMENTS

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

This year's special award winners

General Excellence

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Valley News, West Lebanon, NH
The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT
The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT

Innovator of the Year

The Day, New London CT

Rookies of the Year

Ariel Wittenberg, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Steve Coulter, The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT

Reporters of the Year

Rick Foster, The Sun Chronicle
David DesRoches, The Darien Times

Photographers of the Year

Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News
Shannon Hicks, The Newtown Bee





Congratulations!

New England Better Newspaper Competition Award Winners!

This year's competition drew nearly 3,200 entries that were published during the contest year, August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013. The entries were evaluated by the New England Newspaper & Press Association's distinguished panel of judges. The results of the competition recognize the excellent journalism that is taking place throughout New England – the finalists and winners are listed here, along with the judges' comments.

NENPA is very proud to celebrate this truly extraordinary work!

Entries were judged in 5 categories:

Daily Newspapers with circulation up to 30,000	Weekly Newspapers with circulation up to 6,000
Daily Newspapers with circulation more than 30,000	Weekly Newspapers with circulation more than 6,000
Specialty Newspapers	

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NEWS REPORTING

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Steve Doane, Tim Miller, Patrick Cassidy, Paul Pronovost, Rachael Southmayd, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Very few communities can claim to have hosted and served as a backdrop for one of the most popular, affecting and historical American films of all time - and the team behind 'Shark Island' coverage of the 2012 Jawsfest presented comprehensive, entertaining and well balanced reporting without wallowing in shameless self-promotion. For those who lived through it to anyone with just a passing familiarity with the Jaws phenomenon, this was a critically important series of reports - Kudos to the Times Shark Island team!

Second Place: **Ray Kelly, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

A spectacularly engaging and informative feature about this local unsung photographer. Kelly coaxed some great details from the subject not only validating his place in the patchwork of local arts history - but also his role in helping showcase his community during a historical period in American race relations.

Third Place: **Teresa Santoski, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

This feature was thoroughly researched and expertly crafted, presenting to readers a great comparison between Nashua and other communities working to maintain and improve their arts and entertainment scene. Wise move breaking out the ROI info for a sidebar.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Chris Bergeron, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Dynamite narrative - crisp writing style that makes the reader want to go to this exhibit. Exceptionally descriptive and deliciously witty while capturing the depth and creative vision of the photographer through the interview process. 'I want to go there!'

Second Place: **Trish Crapo, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

This was a feature I could not put down. Tons of information crafted into a compelling profile of a young and inventive local artist. Great work coaxing elements from the interview and effectively working them into this great report.

Third Place: **Linda Murphy, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

A very important story to tell. Truly some of the unsung heroes of her local arts and entertainment scene. Say what you will about the world's great symphonic conductors, but it is volunteers like the subject of this story who enable hundreds or thousands of local musicians to continue enjoying their hobby while contributing to their local arts scene.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Emily Clark, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA**

In order to preserve arts and entertainment events to report on - it's critical for local newspapers to play an active role in keeping those activities alive and thriving in the community. Part of that role is highlighting community members who make significant investments to that end. This feature was as well written as it was relevant - it pulls you in with a wonderfully crafted intro and tells a complete story that has the potential to inspire further philanthropy toward this cause.

Second Place: **Matt Robert, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

This item crackles with excitement - each paragraph begging for the next to be read through to the end. Interesting subject matter that enjoyed maximum exposure due to the quality and passion exhibited here by the writer.

Third Place: **Phil Devitt, Fall River Spirit, Fall River, MA**

Another high caliber feature highlighting a community member who has enabled a viable and thriving arts organization to survive. The writer captures the dedication and grit of the subject while articulating her impact on both the community and Academy participants. Outstanding story of a life in local arts.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Daniel MacAlpine, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

Few writers can put a reader into the story like MacAlpine has done with his exceptionally well written and researched item. Great integration of observational journalism and interview technique that also drew out the artist, providing a compelling, highly readable narrative.

Second Place: **Jessica Sacco, Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA**

Sometimes the trick is to not only find a story that has never been told before - but also to craft that story in a way that makes it both entertaining and informative to readers. This story covers all the bases including the critical second part that brings the reader full circle on the unique and highly creative endeavor of this local art student.

Third Place: **Jeff Pope, Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA**

This feature does three important things - it immediately drags the reader into the story; it inspires them to buy/read the book; and it presents a fascinating, thoughtful and sensitive profile of a local artist/author who appears to be utilizing her talents to exorcise the demons of her past. Well done, Jeff!

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Great presentation on the people and businesses that make up the business community in Nashua, NH. It is a well conceived project that gives the reader an excellent look at the movers and shakers as individuals and the companies they represent. The effort, which included print and video, should serve as an excellent example for other papers to emulate.

Second Place: **Grant Welker, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

Family battles don't always make for regional news stories, but the family battle over control of supermarket chain, Market Basket, was well covered by The Sun and how it impacted not only one of the community's major businesses, but the tight knit Greater Lower Greek community as well.

Third Place: **Bruno Matarazzo Jr., Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

As some states and communities struggle to keep businesses from leaving or to attract new businesses, reporter Matarazzo tells readers how the state is making it more and more difficult for some long time local businesses to remain, as well as how their loss would impact the local economy.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

"Thinking out of the box" has become somewhat overused, but reporter Natalie Sherman showed how traveling out of town by a municipal delegation has led to a different look at potential economic development for a New England region. The series was well written and was accompanied by interesting art.

Second Place: **Kassmin Williams, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

An offbeat piece about the changing economics and the impact of online shopping on the market's traditional bricks and mortar stores.

Third Place: **Lee Howard, The Day, New London, CT**

Reporter Howard did a nice job showing readers how a change in state law may not have had the economic impact on small businesses that it sought to have.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

With Rhode Island possessing one of the highest unemployment rates in the US, the Providence Business News "set out to find out where the jobs are in today's economy, who has them, who is adding to their total" and how they are doing it in a print series.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

Second Place: **Stephen Rappaport, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Maine's coastal economy is seriously impacted by the \$77 million aquaculture industry. Reporter Rappaport informs readers about the transition taking place in this important industry.

Third Place: **Jason Graziadei, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Nonprofit organizations are not always considered part of the business community of the regions they serve, but they should because of the sheer growing numbers of them and the number of people and businesses they impact. Reporter Graziadei tells an interesting story of how these organizations attempt to capitalize on the population Nantucket enjoys for summer months.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Brandon, VT**

Many communities have attempted to deal with issues related to economic recovery from a period of nationwide struggle. In the Reporter's coverage area, the economic impact was further impacted by Tropical Storm Irene which dumped 8 inches of rain in one area. This series tells the important story of how the region was impacted and how it responded.

Second Place: **Alice Coyle, Bridgewater Independent, Bridgewater, MA**

Businesses are more than bricks and mortar and websites. Farming plays a major role in the business and economic life of many New England communities. Reporter Coyle tells readers the personal stories of how farms play a role in the personal lives of multigenerational farmers and the businesses they represent.

Third Place: **Nathan Burgess, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Business stories are not always about the happenings in stuffy boardrooms or on the stock exchanges. Reporter Burgess presents a fun look at how a group of young entrepreneurs have become brewery operators and how they were able to react to Tropical Storm Irene.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Kathryn Marchocki & Simon Rios, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

The pieces give a perfect description of crime, but focused on the key issue: the public's trepidation with what happened.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

CONTINUED

Second Place: **George Brennan, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

The piece gave a frank and detailed description of Rein's conviction and the problems with the evidence.

Third Place: **Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Good storytelling from the faraway scene as well as with the local victim's family.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Jessie Forand & Michelle Monroe, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT**

Excellent in-depth examination of the disposition of sexual assault cases in local courts. Nice blend of comments from all aspects of this complex.

Second Place: **Christopher Williams, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

Good analysis of differing standards regarding legal advice on protection orders. Lots of comments from all sides.

Third Place: **Katina Caraganis, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Nice interview with sexual assault victim - puts the case into perspective.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **David E. Frank, Brandon Gee & David Boeri, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA**

Second Place: **Erin Baldassari, Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA**

The paper took an incredible national/international story and focused on some of the key local angles.

Third Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Fascinating tale of the prosecution of a successful local banker for stabbing an immigrant taxi driver. The case likely would not have been prosecuted had not The Darien Times focused on the event.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Laura Dolce, York County Coast Star, Kennebunk, ME**

Fine writing recalls a decade's-old unsolved murder. First-class narrative – far above the routine.

Second Place: **Lisa McCormack, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Nice wrap-up of conflicting information about a pending case/cases. Weaves interview with victim's mother into official statements.

EDUCATION REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

This week-long series on the cost of college in New Hampshire had it all: excellent interviews with students who graduated with debt, their parents, college administrators, and members of the public. The graphics, sidebar stories and headlines just added sizzle to this series. It deserves first place.

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

The library has always been the heart and brain of a school. In the Worcester school system, too many schools lack libraries, or if they have one, it is staffed with volunteers and is not open all the time. This story brings to the reader an important issue.

Third Place: **K.C. Myers, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Where have all the public school students of Cape Cod gone? To the charter schools. This well-written article details the drop in enrollment in the public school as more charter schools open.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Kristin Palpini & Barbara Solow, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

Excellent idea that led to well-researched and well-written stories. Wide range of interviews. A look at families and their choices and difficult decisions brought the statistics home to the reader.

Second Place: **Jenn Smith & Jim Therrien, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**

What happens to students whose families or parents are divorced or, worse, become homeless? This story looks at the impact on the students as well as the impact on the schools. It gives the reader an in-depth look at this challenging issue.

Third Place: **Brad Petrishen, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Class rank in local high schools is rankling teachers and students but for different reasons. An interesting topic and a readable story looking at an issue just popping up in the high schools.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

When the schools in Darien illegally made changes in the Special Education Law, The Times went after the story like a pitbull gripping a man's leg. This is a continuing story that looked at the view of the parents, the children, and the administrators (finally found at fault), and in the process saw how transparency is in government.

EDUCATION REPORTING

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Jacqueline Weaver, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

How much do the local communities pay to educate their children? The paper dug into records to find out and came up with information taxpayers needed but probably would never have uncovered themselves.

Third Place: **Olivia Hull, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Reporter Hull tells readers about a well liked principal headed to a new job across the country. Good read.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Mark Burrige, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA**

Inside Independence Academy is a series of enterprise stories that gave readers an inside look at a school that works with students with addiction and substance abuse problems. Terrific idea and excellent reporting worthy of first place.

Second Place: **Michael Rausch, The Sandwich Enterprise, Sandwich, MA**

Some good reporting and research went into making this story about moving junior high students into a school with high school students. Good read.

Third Place: **Abby Spegman, Woburn Advocate, Woburn, MA**

@TweetsThatTeach. #WoburnMemorialHighSchool. Nice feature; thanks for including some Tweets.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Lisa Eckelbecker & Susan Spencer, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

In a series running across three days, and including detailed graphics, photos and five-minute video story, the paper presented the complex policy choice of spending over \$200 million – as much as \$250 a year per taxpayer – to improve sewage treatment into the Blackstone River, exploring the history of the river, the impact of dams, algae, mercury, nitrogen and phosphorus, and explaining treatment technology.

Second Place: **Chris Burrell, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

The paper documented personal stories as well as inconclusive data on cancer and illness rates among neighbors to a long-shuttered munitions plant, then kept after state officials when a remediation plan dragged on months past a self-imposed deadline. Evenhanded coverage to respond to community worries.

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

A dozen or more pages over months chronicled fear and reaction to increased sightings of Great White Sharks on outer Cape Cod, investigating the potential link to an increase in seal populations. The paper responded to an obvious public fascination about sharks with thoughtful, factual reporting and a continuously updating archival website.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

A Sunday enterprise reporting page cites the “toxic legacy” of PCB pollution of New Bedford harbor that caused authorities to classify fish caught there as too dangerous to eat. But the paper’s reporting found the ban is not enforced, and many fishermen either unaware or in defiance of it. A classic example of watchdog reporting, checking reality against regulatory intention.

Second Place: **Kristin Palpini, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

State inspectors fail to visit schools under a 12-year-old state law, integrated pest-management plans don’t appear to list all the herbicides used, or are years out of date, the paper found. A good example of checking public records to see if the intentions of state law are matched with real-world-reality.

Third Place: **Danielle Ameden, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

A comprehensive, multi-town, multi-waterway look at how communities are coping with algae and weed growth, including bullet-point documentation of species, costs and methods. A fine example of finding a common regional thread and pulling on it.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

In print and online PBN hammered away at numerous angles in the aftermath of the story, interviewing dozens of businesses about recovery and rebuilding, insurance coverage, rebuild permitting, a special section with detailed database rankings of contractors and disaster agencies, volunteerism, tourism impacts and research on future at-risk properties. A persistent, public-service effort.

Second Place: **John Nolan, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH**

A unique piece of enterprise reporting, gathered and charted detailed data on the growth of impervious, paved surfaces in 18 towns draining into the Piscataqua River estuary and Salmon Falls watershed. It showed paving growing dramatically faster than population, raising long-term questions about flooding and nutrient pollution. An unexpected and welcome look at a statistic worth studying in all fast-growing parts of New England.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

CONTINUED

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

A skillful job of narrative journalism, weaving national climate-change trend analysis through local-impact and observation comments from a half-dozen Worcester experts in academia and government. A text-book case of localizing a national issue.

Honorable Mention: **Sara Brown, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

A startling lesson about the unstoppable power of Mother Nature – shifting sands eroding 200 feet of beach in months, not years – off Martha's Vineyard. The result: the required multi-million-dollar moving of an 8,000-square-foot just-built family mansion which otherwise would plunge into the sea. A thorough reporting job and easy read including background and a candid interview with the wealthy, politically connected owner.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Patricia Gay, The Weston Forum, Weston, CT**
One citizen worried about her health and testing her home drinking well for arsenic went to the newspaper. The result, an extensive effort across Connecticut to test wells for the naturally-occurring element that can be dangerous at unusual levels. The paper's coverage sparked citizen awareness and state action that might avert long-term illness.

Second Place: **Caitlin Flaherty, Wareham Courier, Wareham, MA**

Clear, tight writing and appropriate use of quotes for emphasis carry this overview story about a challenge common to all New England communities of size – nitrogen pollution of waterways from septic, sewage, fertilizer and pavement runoff.

Third Place: **Courtney Lamdin, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT**

Installation of wind turbines for power generation across New England incites neighbors' wrath, and the paper follows one such dispute involving blasting, permitting and civil disobedience – as well as installation of the turbines – with balance and deep sourcing.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Spectacular public service and explanatory journalism in this series exploring difficult issues that go to the very heart of the region's economic engine. This series covers every base - explains the shark threat, questions how much of a threat it is, looks to the West Coast for context of how another state has handled the same problem, and explains with excellent words and graphics the complexity - and potential costs - of the shark

problem along Cape beaches. Great use of words, images, graphics and digital tools to tell this story.

Second Place: **Staff, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
Strong beginning-to-end coverage of an emotional, complicated story unfolding over the dilemma of a funeral home seeking a place to bury the remains of one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects. Coverage was balanced and measured, a difficult order amid the whirlwind of protest and controversy that threw the community and funeral home into the national spotlight.

Third Place: **K.C. Myers & Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Compelling combination of moving personal stories and disturbing statistics to highlight an addiction that threatens the community.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Rick Foster, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**
Strong, persistent reporting that served a public interest and got results for people who may not have been aware of aid and benefits available to them. A good combination of explanatory journalism and accountability reporting, using both personal stories and public documents.

Second Place: **Anna Isaacs, Brian Hallenbeck, Lee Howard & Johanna Somers, The Day, New London, CT**

Excellent use of local reporting expertise to cover a major national news story unfolding so close to home. Good work by local staff to blanket the wide range of angles this news story demanded - reassurance for parents of schoolchildren regionally, gun ownership questions and swift legislative movement.

Third Place: **Greg Smith, The Day, New London, CT**

Terrific work cross-referencing data (population and gun registration by county) to find the interesting story in the numbers. Puts a real context to the state's new landmark gun law - excellent enterprise.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Sara Brown, Julia Wells & Jane Seagrave, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Spectacular use of important survey material permitting the Gazette to hold a mirror up to its community. Important reporting on many concerns that were either validated or dismissed through legitimate data.

Second Place: **Susan Shultz & David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Gripping, yet sensitive coverage about this mysterious and untimely death of a well known and beloved community member. These reports transcend standard incident reporting by introducing the reporter's first-person perspective.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

CONTINUED

Third Place: **John Howell, Warwick Beacon, Warwick, RI**

This story was chosen on its merits. Tight writing, compelling narrative, gripping descriptions - impossible to put down after just the first paragraph. Excellent storytelling.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Frank Mortimer, Bill Stedman, & Jeff Peterson, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA**

This detailed and thorough series of reports provided exceptional reader and community service, with initial reports prompting or encouraging other victims to come forward. Fantastic use of sources and source material - compelling reading top to bottom.

Second Place: **Aaron Sanborn, The Exeter News-Letter, Exeter, NH**

Excellent localized reporting on a health issue that gained national attention. Tightly written in a style that is easy to read and understand.

Third Place: **Kimberly A. Hooper, Concord Journal, Concord, MA**

A well written series that digs deep into an important community issue with numerous implications to the town's school district and taxpayers. These reports detail the saga of this well-meaning but eventually doomed proposal from beginning to end.

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Carrie Wattu, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Entertaining article with lots of information and advice concerning a topic that all parents are concerned with. This is "news you can use."

Second Place: **Margie Bucheit, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

An important issue in the community - the survival of a 135-year-old theatre. Great topic, nicely done.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Nancy West, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

Report presents startling revelations that convicted murderers are 1.) released from prison after so short a stretch; 2.) are protected from public disclosures while victims' families are kept unaware of their whereabouts; 3.) that 50 percent of parolees reoffend; 4.) that one parolee even ended working for the city of Concord. Valuable chart and strong follow-up story.

Second Place: **Thomas Caywood & Shaun Sutner, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Statistics developed in a way that illustrates clearly how excessive spending is for disability pensions, especially for police and firefighters. It's a good bet that every local reader went carefully through the list of names and numbers and found people they knew - a strong addition to this report. An estimate of how much of a burden the pensions are on taxpayers, and some egregious examples of cases where the pensioners scammed the disability system would have added to this valuable report.

Third Place: **Alec Johnson, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Reports raise strong doubt about the workings of the public works department in this town, and equally strong questions about how and why this mess developed, apparently unheeded. This series of stories seems to back into the essence of the problem, and the reports would be helped by tying all of these together more neatly and determining why no more firmer action was taken by municipal higher-ups sooner about these missteps.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Justin Graeber, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Balanced, well-presented report, backed up by convincing statistics showing the college's underpayment for water. Telling fact: Lack of clarity on even how many meters Stonehill has. Top-notch sidebar on municipal officials' ties to the school.

Second Place: **Kathleen Edgecomb, The Day, New London, CT**

A fine blend of history and updates on that history with the human element and toll to chronicle this tragic government error. The cover photo is smashing, and epitomizes the waste and angst generated by that error.

Third Place: **Alana Melanson, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Thorough, deep and fair examination of the troubled and negligent Fitchburg Housing Authority. Chart showing the authority "by the numbers" adds impact to how badly this agency went awry. This is the type of watchdog reporting that keeps government honest and makes newspapers important.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Steve Fuller, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME**

An enterprising approach in taking a common issue across borders and exploring it. An interesting topic, well reported and clearly written. There are some gray areas to the topic, but mostly a product of the issue of the legality of these local laws themselves.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Allison Teague, The Commons, Windham County, VT**

An account rife with juicy allegations, personal and professional, spelled out and implied. An up-close examination of the problems generated by the alleged actions, fairly reported. Could have been tightened, and key issues summarized and consolidated higher in story to add emphasis to their import in this account.

Third Place: **Brandon Gee, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA**

Exposes an important dilemma, and backs up its central point with telling statistics. Clearly and cleanly written. Story would have benefited from comments from the clerk and presiding judge, and from comparisons to peer district courts with similar staffing, to provide context to the backlog issue.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Joyce Pellino Crane, Westford Eagle, Westford, MA**

A thorough and fair examination of this lively issue. Reports show no tilt toward one side or the other on this volatile topic, and both sides get their say in balanced measure. First piece, although a bit overdrawn, provided a good service for residents concerned about measures to prevent a Newtown-like incident in their schools. Side pieces in this series of reports were helpful.

Second Place: **Nick B. Reid, The Hampton Union, Hampton, NH**

Well-written report. Points out a pressing problem in the town that begs for more enterprise reporting after this report to explore how deep the problem is, its root cause and to provide more context, to go beyond the "he said, he said" of this report.

Third Place: **Danielle McLean, The Beacon-Villager, Maynard, MA**

Exhaustive and balanced coverage of this big issue in town, and generally well written. A wealth of good detail, in particular about the scope of the proposed development itself. A good example of keeping a community informed about a major issue. This subject also calls for more enterprise reporting. And don't assume readers know government jargon, such as "overlay district."

HEALTH REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Brynn Mandel, Tracey O'Shaughnessy & Carrie MacMillan, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

I very much liked the "news you can use" aspect of this – helpful advice like "never let them be wrong" which was also something that hasn't been reported a million times. Three parts were just the right amount, and each tackled a significantly different

aspect without a lot of repetition. Very much like the inclusion of diversity in this piece. Did a good job of including the first-person perspective, but not too much of it. Good societal information. Nice job of balancing the individual and the societal.

Second Place: **Shawne K. Wickham, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

The meningitis caused by medicine from a New England compounding pharmacy was certainly an important news story nationwide. This series did a good job of following the developments and expanding to put it in context and respond to things people would be concerned about, for instance, what if you had gotten this medicine from your doctor? What should you do? There was a lot of cause for alarm and I think the stories did a decent job of attempting to not scare people further, although I'm not sure how successful that was or even could have been.

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

The news of the legalization of pot garnered a lot of coverage, most of it overly long and anecdotal. This one also seemed a bit long, but was distinct about its focus each day. It started with an overview story, putting everything in context (not all of them did), and included stories from different points of view, including the ubiquitous anecdotal pieces. It put it in context, pointing out where New Hampshire differs and giving the story of another state's experience.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Chris Fleisher, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

A story that has been much neglected, it is time to bring back the issue of fluoride in water. It gives people useful information that they can really do something about, which adds to feelings of self-efficacy that are so important in encouraging good health behaviors. It gives much new information, context, prevention, risk factors, and treatments. It has real people telling their own stories plus experts and medical studies. It's a story that affects everyone, but doesn't rely on scare tactics. The lede is catchy and the entire set of stories is interesting, concise, and written in active voice. Great headline, too. The graphic and breakout boxes are helpful and informative and add to reader knowledge.

Second Place: **Judy Benson, The Day, New London, CT**

This human interest piece does a good job of not succumbing to the stereotyping that could come so easily. It offers a story that is likely to fly under the radar of most middle class newspaper readers without stigmatizing. It makes the migrant workers come to life as real people with quiet dignity. The breakout box does a good job of corralling the financial stats and keeping them from bogging down the text.

HEALTH REPORTING

CONTINUED

Third Place: **Amy Carboneau, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

I liked this set of stories because it was something truly new and interesting and not just a localized rehash of a story we've already heard a million times. The unfortunate headlines, which cause it to be sensationalized, are the only things that kept me from awarding it higher. It was not one of those "against all odds" stories with hype, breakthroughs, and cures. Instead, it was informative and an interesting read. There was good context – background, prevention, risk factors, and statistics that were not boringly presented. The graphics and breakout boxes aid reader comprehension. The sources included realistic people, experts, and scientific studies. I would suggest the headline writers show as much balance instead of using words like "Terror" and "Grim."

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Sara Brown & John H. Kennedy, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

This is well written reporting. It looks at the facts and why perceptions (and misperceptions) are confused. Good, solid work on a complex issue, which is vital to any community.

Second Place: **Taylor Nunez, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Who knew hunger & obesity were hand-in-hand? Quality reporting on an important issue.

Third Place: **Steve Fuller, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

A subject not normally covered. This one was reported in a straight-forward yet compassionate style. Good job of informing the public on a unique issue. Nice feature.

Honorable Mention: **Sarah Thomas, Salem Gazette, Salem, MA**

Good feature, well researched. Overall, good reporting.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Julie M. Cohen, West Roxbury Transcript, West Roxbury, MA**

Took breaking news and gave it depth. Solid reporting of why this is important to families.

Second Place: **Sue Mello, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

Vital topic to any community, some very solid reporting. Obviously a concerned reporter covering the community well.

Third Place: **Kelly Morgan, The York Weekly, York, ME**

Well written, personalized look at the disease. Finding a younger man to tell the story made it unusual. Nice way to let the family talk.

HISTORY REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

In this six-month series, the Telegraph explored the southern New Hampshire city's economic development and nearly a hundred stories, representing an enormous effort by reporters and editors. The print material was supplemented by videos available online and capped off with a thick magazine that profiled development leaders of the past 50 years and people emerging on the scene today. Great effort.

Second Place: **Wayne Phaneuf, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

An impressively written, researched and illustrated occasional series of stories on Civil War events told against the background of the battlefields and the home front. The stories capture the distress of the ghastly war with a focus on participants from the Springfield area.

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

There's never a dearth of human stories to tell about World War II, as this Veterans Day piece illustrates. The focus is on Lowell school sports legend Jimmy Scondras who's still remembered by his aging contemporaries 70 years after his death on Iwo Jima.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

The first black soldier awarded the Medal of Honor was a trooper from New Bedford, and this piece tells the dramatic story of how William H. Carney distinguished himself during the bloody attack on Confederate held Fort Wagner by the all-black Massachusetts 54th regiment, an engagement dramatized in the movie "Glory." It's the mundane aspects of a hero's life that adds poignancy to a story like this one. Carney worked for a time as superintendent of street lights in New Bedford, as a postman and finally as a messenger at the State House. He died in 1908 when his right leg - badly damaged at Fort Wagner - was trapped and mangled in a State House elevator accident.

Second Place: **Marc Dion, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

The storied mills that once powered the economies of Fall River and other New England cities were grim places to work, especially for the children who made up such a large part of the labor force. The story is complemented by excellent period photos, which also form the visuals for a presentation titled "The Mill Children."

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

This may be the New World, but not to the cultures that preceded Europeans by thousands of years. This two-part report tells how archeologists painstakingly examining a highway project site in Swanton, Vt., turned up artifacts fashioned 5,000 years ago by nomadic people who called New England home.

HISTORY REPORTING

CONTINUED

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

The American marked Ellsworth's 250th anniversary with a well illustrated, 60-plus page magazine that recounted events such as the 1923 flood and the fire ten years later that devastated the city's center.

Second Place: **Charles Bennett, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Wilbraham, MA**

This piece won't persuade the reader one way or another about ghosts, but the supposed sighting of one kicks off an interesting, three-part yarn that does answer questions about the identity of the supposed specter, a Civil War veteran.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Third Place: **Sharma Howard, Mystic Times, Mystic, CT**

An interesting footnote to New England's well-documented whaling history is the previously unrealized number of native Americans on both whaler and merchant ship crews. This piece helps fill in the gap in seafaring history.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **John Rook, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT**

Ever wonder what or who the street you grew up on or the grade school you attended was named for? The Herald tackled the name game for its annual series on local points of interest. Well written and researched and fun to read, no matter where you hail from.

Second Place: **Erin Dale, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**

The youngest and last survivor of the four Stoddard brothers who went off to serve in World War II has produced a book that in turn made for a nice Veteran's Day story for the Mariner. The book collects stories and photos of the family members who served in various branches and occasionally crossed one another's paths in various war theaters before returning home unscathed.

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

This piece based on a grad student's master's thesis tells of 1935 -36 strike against the Vermont Marble Company. The workers achieved little of their goals - no agreement on conditions and only a 2 cent per hour wage increase - struggling against the political and economic power of the company.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Joe Cote, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Tough topic, well written. Not overdone, but also not underdone. Some of the best writing in the pile.

Second Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Very powerful turn on the images and ideas. Covers the requisite topics, but with people and relatable stories.

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

Just dynamite. Told well, in many of his words.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Jim Kenyon, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

Story takes on a subject that is rarely written about - especially in such a personal way. Well-sourced, it shows how a family can try everything to save their daughter and still be unsuccessful. This is as much a tribute to the family as it is a tale of a troubled girl.

Second Place: **Don Mahler, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

A marvelous tale of Forrest's moment of glory, thanks to his teammates, school, family and opposing team. The ending is perfect, too.

Third Place: **Frank Mortimer, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Nice job showing the contrast between the Hazeldines and their community, using this family's difficulties to illustrate a much bigger issue.

Honorable Mention: **Alex Hanson, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Phil Devitt, Fall River Spirit, Fall River, MA**

It's a nice look at Fall River history, but most importantly, it starts and continues with people and actions, and very well written actions at that.

Second Place: **Patricia Roy, The Landmark, Holden, MA**

It's a powerful story, but it's not maudlin and it flows - important and not every writer would have pulled it off.

Third Place: **John Flowers, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Does a great job of covering the story, weaving in the background, and paying tribute. Also, well written.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Laura Dolce, York County Coast Star, Kennebunk, ME**

Intriguing local bit of history, well done. The quotes and description put the reader in the moment.

Second Place: **Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Brandon, VT**

Tremendous, colorful details about a story of an enduring couple.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

CONTINUED

Third Place: **Jacqueline Cain, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT**

A thorough account of near-tragedy.

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Jack Sheedy, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

A thoughtful, well described journey inside the angels at night who feed and help the homeless. The writer brought me to those places with compassion and great storytelling.

Second Place: **Jennifer Lucarelli, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Touching piece about a legislative advocate for Down syndrome and a person who has overcome these challenges personally.

Third Place: **Lisa Stiepoek, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Very detailed, historic coverage on a victim of Hurricane Sandy. Focusing on not only the disaster, but also the re-building was a win-win approach.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Sean Teehan, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Sean did a terrific job of following his curiosity, digging deep into public records and developing sources to uncover an important story.

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

An important story that holds government accountable and protects taxpayers.

Third Place: **Keith Eddings, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

The integrity of the election process is key to a functioning democracy. This story raises serious issues that go to the heart of an election.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Christopher Williams, Judith , Meyer & Scott Thistle, Sun Journal, Lewisto, ME**

A strong example of holding the powerful accountable for actions that impact the voiceless/powerless.

Second Place: **Sarah Brubeck & Maggie Cassidy, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

Excellent example of digging deep to determine "who knew, when did they know it and what did they do about it?"

Third Place: **Natalie Sherman, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Superb example of in-depth watchdog reporting.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Nicholas Iovino, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA**

A superb example of watchdog reporting focused on conflicts of interest.

Second Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Keeping a close eye on the criminal justice system is an important journalistic role. This story is an example of how doing that job well can produce important information.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **JC Reindl, The Day, New London, CT**

While a number of entries in this category offered solid coverage of local elections, this one stood out as a prime example of enterprising watchdog journalism. The reporter went to great lengths to track down information, and, despite pressure from the powerful, publish a story that held the state's U.S. Senator accountable for her actions. And, perhaps more importantly, publication helped contribute to a positive change, with the McMahons promising to make good on their bankruptcy obligations after achieving a measure of financial success.

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

At a time of diminished resources throughout the industry, the newspaper devoted an impressive amount of time, newsprint and manpower to informing voters in advance of the local elections.

Third Place: **Steve DeCosta, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

DeCosta did good work in holding the Senate candidates accountable for the welfare on the entire region.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

The newspaper demonstrated great respect for the citizens it serves via its comprehensive package of previews and coverage of Town Meeting for all communities in the circulation area. It clearly laid out the important issues in advance, encouraged active participation during the event itself (not to mention live coverage online) and then came back a week later with equally detailed coverage in print. Such a sustained effort by its staff for two weeks running is to be commended.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

CONTINUED

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Peggy Auliso, The Advocate, Fairhaven, MA**

In retrospect, the secondary headline on the April 4 Board of Health election story certainly lived up to its billing: "Board of Health race a cliffhanger." For three tortuous months, Auliso kept Advocate readers informed on every twist and turn in this highly contentious race, all while framing its import in proper perspective. Her coverage appeared fair and evenhanded, despite the heated rhetoric surrounding the controversy. Additionally, the reporting was supported by well-reasoned editorials calling for a new election.

Second Place: **Michael Jonas & Gintaus Dumcius, Dorchester Reporter, Dorchester, MA**

Jonas and Dumcius faced the unenviable task of being called upon to "bite the hand that feeds them" by critically analyzing the performance of the paper in light of its conflict of interest involving the Senate candidate's relationship to the publisher and editor. They offered a balanced take and placed events in proper perspective in a way the newspaper itself could not. As a result, the readers and voters were well served. Additionally, The Reporter is to be commended for its decision to create such a position to help mitigate the conflict, welcoming public input via the contact info listed at the end of each Ombudsman's Report.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Tim Buckland, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

Excellent and informative profile. Good use of short sentences and an anecdotal lead to provide a highly readable piece. A very honest portrayal of an individual worth profiling.

Second Place: **Ashley Smith, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Well-written, interesting story of a transgender experience. Good depth of information.

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

Good lead draws reader into a well written narrative. Blends personality with useful information.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

Interesting subject presented very well. Easy reading, good blend of quotes and text.

Second Place: **Greg Sullivan, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Well written piece on a subject that could have easily become a "victim" piece. Not mushy. Quotes and narrative combine to provide good reading. By the end, you have to root for the kid.

Third Place: **Anna Isaacs, Jennifer McDermott, Claire Bessette & Kimberly Drelich, The Day, New London, CT**
Generally insightful and interesting. The Bessette piece on the dancer really stood out.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **David E. Frank, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA**

Frank wrote a solid, professional piece on retired Superior Court Judge Robert Barton. His picture of the testy, high-profile judge is nuanced, fact-packed and written to show the person, not an icon.

Second Place: **Ann Wood, Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA**

Wood profiled an identifiable Provincetown character, 40-year fisherman Eddie Ritter. The small-time, small-boat fisherman works from an orange dory that tourists love to photograph or paint. It would have been tempting to deal in stereotypes, but Wood goes beyond the bearded postcard character to the hard-working guy who gets by.

Third Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

This Memorial Day piece could have been just another old-vet task, but DesRoches profiled retired Marine Gene Coyle, a former boxer, Time Inc. executive and civic-minded Korean War vet. The piece works because of details, like how Coyle, a justice of the peace, performs marriages for no charge. Instead, he asks couples to make a donation to help wounded marines.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

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

McCormack profiles sudden-death expert Franne Whitney Nelson, who assists the grieving families of fatal-crime victims. The piece shows her, and what she does, as valuable and aiding survivors. Great subject. McCormack made this a good read and not at all mawkish. She is thorough without being text-bookish.

Second Place: **Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Brandon, VT**

The lead got me. "RUTLAND - Close your eyes. Now try to raise your child..." After being fired from a Vermont newspaper job in the 1980s, the author moved to Boston, earned a masters in medical writing, found work and, although single and losing her sight, adopted a daughter. She and her daughter are back in Vermont and publishing. Triumph over adversity.

Third Place: **Josh Farnsworth, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA**

Feature on a young welder preparing to compete in a national welding competition in Florida. His mentor, a former teacher, is involved. Farnsworth makes the welder, and his craft, interesting. Youth, hard work, caring teachers and blue-collar hustle.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Brett Adam, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Ordinarily wary of first-person profiles, but considering the background, who could tell the story better? And it does tell a story well... and it is a story worth telling. The writing is revealing without getting too protective of the subject. Heartfelt without getting too mushy.

Second Place: **Sara Dunleavy Berge, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Clever way to set up an art show. Respects artist without being too fawning. Paints a respectful picture. Artist profiles are the staple, and sometimes the bane, of weeklies, but this one is better than most.

OBITUARIES

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Warren Johnston, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

The writer does a nice job of weaving the story and not getting in the way of a good narrative. There's lots of good material to work with here, and the writer details a life well-lived, warts and all. Mr. Pond was certainly a "back-in-the-day" subject, which proved to be a wonderful read.

OBITUARIES

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Maria Papadopoulos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Excellent packaging and use of refers, sidebars and the Web to detail the passing of a legend. The story was nicely written, but it was the volume and depth of sidebar material which made it a winner.

Third Place: **Alan Burke, The Salem News, Salem, MA**

A great read about an everyday housewife who had her own special story. The writer does a wonderful job weaving the details of her life into a heart-warming story, proving you don't have to be famous to have led a wonderful and interesting life.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Tom Dunlop, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Out of all the entries, this was the one where I truly felt like I knew the person. Mr. Hale's history, impact and maritime motivations were all woven into a well-constructed, easy read that covered all the bases, warts and all. It was an outstanding send-off.

Second Place: **Dom Nicastro, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

Here was a man who played a major role in the lives of so many student-athletes, and the story amply notes his huge impact. The story reflects such with ample quotes throughout, basically

letting the townspeople tell the story of what "Esso" Haines meant to them. Nice job.

Third Place: **Julia Wells, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

There was probably no way this was going to be a flowery sendoff. The story reflected the person, talked about her many trials and tribulations and her fiery political career and impact on the community. Still, the story remained respectful and honest. I'm sure Mrs. Marinelli would have enjoyed it.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Winston Wiley, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

A fresh look at a forgotten chapter in US history. The article was informative and educational, and the pie charts provided context to the story.

Second Place: **Elizabeth Roman, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Interesting story about a traffic stop that drastically changed this couple's life. The story sparked a lot of online comments and debate about immigration policies.

Third Place: **Anna Isaacs, The Day, New London, CT**

Great reporting on an ethnic group that is often overlooked.

Honorable Mention: **Simon Rios, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Honorable Mention: **Lindsay Corcoran, Milford Daily News, Milford, MA**

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Sara Feijo, Dedham Transcript, Dedham, MA**

This series on non-native English speaking students was eye-opening. Great idea for a series. Solid reporting.

Second Place: **Felipe Cabrera, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

This story was well-written and contained lots of informative details about a fledgling Portuguese mass on Martha's Vineyard. It was interesting to learn how so many parishioners have left (or have been deported!) since 2007.

Third Place: **Karen Wong, Duxbury Clipper, Duxbury, MA**

Kudos to the Duxbury Clipper for sending Karen Wong to Afghanistan to cover this important local story.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

This reporter took full advantage of the opportunity to explore this somewhat tragic fish out of water story while showcasing a highly personal and localized glimpse into an often misunderstood or mischaracterized religion. A feel-good outcome from a potentially troubling story written with balance and thought provoking style.

Second Place: **Kathryn Marchocki, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

This was a perfect, hyper-local sidebar to an international story covered by thousands of media outlets. Great work canvassing members and leaders of the local Latino community promoting both their deep faith and immense pride upon the naming of Pope Francis.

Third Place: **Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

While lesser reporters might easily have missed or disregarded this story - Cassidy drilled in admirably providing readers with a compelling story of the tiniest of congregations bursting with faith, hope and fellowship.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **George Rhodes, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

In the days following the Boston Marathon Bombing, as the world press turned its scope to the perpetrators and victims, kudos to this reporter who saw a unique and deeply spiritual story emerging as he revealed how one victim inspired a local religious leader to reaffirm his own faith and crafted a post-event sermon with an important message.

Second Place: **Natalie Sherman, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

While many reporters tackle stories of local church communities merging, consolidating or closing, few, if any, localized a story like this reporter who - through her main subject - told an inspiring story of spiritual survival and rebirth. I liked the way the story shifted subtly from a personality profile to a much more compelling narrative about transitioning a parish from its base into the community it serves.

Third Place: **Linda Murphy, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

A highly engaging, well told report brining in numerous subjects representing myriad faiths. This writer culled great quotes and wove them well into this fascinating community-centric feature.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Shannon Hicks, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

A complicated story emerging from the 12/14 tragedy in Newtown that was rooted in the community, but had implications at the top levels of the US Lutheran Church. Expertly detailed by the author in an engaging and highly readable feature.

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

This report is relevant to not only the two Jewish congregations, but the entire community as well. A fair, balanced and comprehensive story weaving together numerous interviews, facts and observations with expertise.

Third Place: **Debra Ryan, Fall River Spirit, Fall River, MA**

A provocative feature that works well, combining the narrative of a parish school on the verge of closing with the greater issues facing faith-based educational institutions across the region and the country.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Ruth Thompson, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA**

A congregation taking their passion and faith in their hometown parish to the highest authority in the Catholic Church makes for compelling reading. Also provides a unique look at the structure of the Catholic appeals process and how it could have hyper-local influence in this church community. This was challenging subject matter, well conveyed in this feature.

Second Place: **Jessica Sacco, Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA**

An engaging personality profile of a local clergy person who is making history in his parish and community. Expertly woven storylines tying together the story of one man's faith with the process and politics of a religious community attempting to survive and thrive in the 21st Century.

Third Place: **Josh Farnsworth, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA**

A well written and necessary component to the newspapers Bicentennial coverage. Highly readable, and evidence of a reporter who goes the extra mile to cover all the bases, resulting in a good and important community feature.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Thomas Caywood & Shaun Sutner, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

For two hours, 911 calls in Worcester went unanswered because of a Verizon switch malfunction. The Telegram dug into the unpublicized problem, producing a clean graphic showing how calls are routed. Strong play on Page 1 Sunday was appropriate to the risk in an event officials said had not occurred in at least 30 years. An excellent example of watchdog journalism.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Richie Davis, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
Story reports UMass climate scientist's assertion in a local talk that two different oil-state congressmen appeared to have mounted intimidation campaigns after scientific research documented a two-decade rise in average global temperatures based on measuring trapped air in glacial-ice layers. Even-handed follow up report supplemented the scientist's initial public talk. A compelling example of public-policy debate at the local level.

Third Place: **Paul Feely & Shawne K. Wickham, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**
Nearly 10 months before Snowden disclosures about the NSA, this story details the then little-known impact of mobile phones automatic "pinging" of cell towers, creating billions of data points fixing the moving location of "100 million mobile devices 100 times a day." Reporters took the added step of man-on-the-street interviewing of citizens for their reaction.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Jason Graziadei, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**
Skillfully and smoothly weaves national information about the emergence of "drones" as a privacy issue into the stories of two Nantucket residents and how they use the flying devices recreationally. A human-interest angle on an emerging national issue, localized.

Second Place: **Mark Burrige, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA**
An extended treatment of a school committee meeting at which administrators staged a demonstration with students of the use of one-on-one iPads in curriculum. This paper understood the importance of the emergency of personal technology in pedagogy and played it on page one.

Third Place: **Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
This is a fairly simple interview story with a patent attorney who has developed a test for whether bar drinks have been adulterated with so-called "date-rape drugs." While the incidence of such crimes may be over-perceived, the consequences vs. the simple solution intrigue. Will bars adopt it?

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)
First Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**
An ambitious, exhaustive and highly impactful piece of community journalism that made a difference.

Second Place: **Thomas Caywood, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
This highly readable story truly puts a human face - many faces, actually - on one neighborhood's sad undoing.

Third Place: **Heather Wysocki, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Strong writing, comprehensive reporting.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)
First Place: **Rick Foster, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**
A well-written, solidly reported look at a startling and rarely documented issue.

Second Place: **Chris Curtis, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
This compelling reportage pulls back the curtain to expose the enormity of a scourge that's killing our kids.

Third Place: **Linda Murphy, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**
Bright writing, insightful reporting on a growing phenomenon.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)
First Place: **Remy Tumin & Sara Brown, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
Bright writing on a thorough look at a uniquely Vineyard-esque economic challenge.

Second Place: **Frank Mand, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA**
A poignant and perceptive look at Plymouth's hidden homeless. Good reporting, breezy and "bloggy" approach.

Third Place: **Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
This is an edgy and bullish examination of a persistent problem that shouldn't be an issue in (almost) 2014.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)
First Place: **Jennifer Feals, York County Coast Star, Kennebunk, ME**
Edgy and daring. This piece takes us to a place we're not sure we want to go. A compelling read.

Second Place: **Aaron Sanborn, The Exeter News-Letter, Exeter, NH**
Solid reporting on a painful subject.

Third Place: **Erin Dale, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**
A well-timed look at an interesting and controversial resident. Nice writing!

SPORTS STORY

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: Jennifer Toland, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Jennifer Toland provides a clear profile of a student-athlete's recovery from a severe accident and his journey back in his studies and his sport. The lead sets the tone of the challenge, contrasting nicely with his pre-accident status. There is very good use of quotes, including the athlete's worry about the concern he caused others. Quotes from others lend depth and perspective. The details of the story help give a full picture of a long, difficult journey to an uplifting recovery.

Second Place: Dave Nordman & Rick Eggleston, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This story had the potential to be a first-place winner. The one drawback was the lack of comment by any members of the swim team or by any of the athletes on other teams affected by the decision. The sidebar gave public reaction but nothing from those directly affected. The mainbar lead was a grabber and explanations of the situation were clear and concise.

Third Place: Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA

This is an interesting story about the dynamics of youth sports, highlighting the challenges of trying to do what's best for all young athletes when there are wide varieties of age, physical development and experience. In addition, the story illustrates the sometimes autocratic relationship between a local league and the national organization where rules can be perceived as inflexible. There is good use of the young athlete's perspective and a clear explanation of the entire situation.

Honorable Mention: Russ Charpentier, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

A compelling portrait of a Downs syndrome player's love of team and his effects on those around him.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

The combination of subject and writing give this story its own strength. Though the topic isn't a hot-button issue, it is one with which the larger percentage of student-athletes are familiar. The story offers varying viewpoints on how and why an athlete reaches the decision to remain with a team even with little chance of earning game time. It gives personal stories, one of which is the intriguing perspective offered by an athlete who is a star in one sport and a seldom used reserve in another. The lead catches the attention and injects a humorous note. One element might have made the story a bit stronger and given a look at the other side of the issue: A student-athlete who decided to leave his/her sport.

Second Place: Don Mahler, Valley News, Lebanon, NH

With the growing concern about injuries, especially concussions, in contact sports, this story is timely and informative. It looks at the subject from a local perspective backed by statistics from authoritative sources. The lead quickly establishes a visual difference of two age levels and the contact involved. In addition to the voices of adults, which provide varying perspectives of a "hot topic," we hear from a young player who has competed under both sets of rules. The writing itself flows nicely with good transition. The short sidebar illustrates the challenges faced by those who must regulate the games themselves, the officials.

Third Place: Kevin Mills, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

The story covers two of the primary criteria: originality and quality. It provides an interesting and informative look at the use and abuse of social media at the local sports level backed by comments from national experts. The writing in the mainbar is solid and flows well. The brief sidebars provide additional insight into the effects and uses of social media. The mainbar offers a snapshot of the subject without being overly wordy. While the sidebar 'All the news...' gives a personal and humorous look at the potential effects of social media, it would have been nice to have a few more voices from the athletes in the mainbar.

Honorable Mention: Kalle Oakes, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

An in-depth look at the MMA rage in Maine.

Honorable Mention: Laurie Los, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Nicely done human interest story of an athlete overcoming a significant disability.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

A catchy lead sets the tone for the story. The subject is an uncommon one and Ivy Ashe handles it well, weaving personal stories into the underlying topic. The passion of the drivers and former drivers - the story has a nice diversity of ages - is clear and palpable. It's a fun look at people having fun at high speed.

Second Place: Mike Whaley, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH

As with the top story in this category, the writer makes the passion of the participants the focal point of the piece. The lead is quick to make the point: for competitors, this is a sport. This is enough explanation of the technicalities of the sport without bogging the story down. Fun little tidbits, too, including the derivation of some nicknames.

SPORTS STORY

CONTINUED

Third Place: **Paul Silverfarb, Greenwich Post, Greenwich, CT**

Submitted as part two of a three-part series, this is an informative look at the effects of concussions on two student-athletes. A stronger lead involving one of the two student-athletes portrayed in the article might have elevated this story in the judging. Still, once inside the story, it reads well and personalizes concussions. Note: Part one and three were informative, but part two set it apart from many similar factual stories.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Rocco Paul Valluzzo, The Weston Forum, Weston, CT**

This is a timely and thorough series covering a controversial topic. The issue is clearly discussed with input from several sources. Coverage is balanced and the writing is direct and easy to follow. All sources are clearly identified. An example of good reporting.

Second Place: **Adam K. Ellis, Carver Reporter, Carver, MA**

Adam K. Ellis provides an insightful and personal look at the Boston Marathon tragedy. He deftly blends his actions with the bombing and carnage. The juxtaposition of his every-day events with the unfolding horror works well, such as when he describes taking a photo early in the day at the site of the second bomb. The story has a different but effective tenor from a straight news story.

Third Place: **Doug Hastings, Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA**

Doug Hasting's story on darts gives a nice sense of place as well as an informative look at the sport. It's not just about the technicalities of a less heralded sport, but the whys and whos. Solid feature story.

Third Place: **Rebecca Hyman, Bridgewater Independent, Bridgewater, MA**

Rebecca Hyman's story on a 14-year-old pitcher who threw an extremely rare 18-strikeout perfect game nicely portrays the young pitcher and his feat's role in a documentary about major league perfect games. Particularly well done is her description of Tanner Brakken's relationship to his grandfather.

Honorable Mention: **Nathan Burgess & Kim Whalen, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

A great piece covering the history and nostalgia of the Jackson Arena. We are sure it brought back memories for a lot of the locals. Excellent writing.

SPOT NEWS STORY

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

The Republican staff's selfless work during a dangerous incident resulted in a first-rate journalistic package that served readers well. Special recognition goes to Patrick Johnson, whose lucid first-day story hit all the right notes, and anticipated readers' questions and fears during a chaotic time.

Second Place: **Rick Sobey & Christopher Scott, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

The Lowell Sun's thorough, smart reporting and writing about the death of bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev is the definition of great spot news. Timely, key interviews shed light on a baffling case and helped put the suspect in context.

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

This unusual take on a breaking news story draws the reader in with an evocative lead, clear writing and the masterful use of detail. Most importantly, the writer gets out of the way and lets the facts and the victim's husband tell the story.

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

Complete, relevant, and reader-focused.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

Comprehensive coverage, informing readers of what's going on all over, from multiple perspectives, with data, detail and anecdote. Critical info to the community, great public service.

Second Place: **Meghan Foley, Kyle Jarvis, Danielle Rivard, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

Well told, good detail.

Third Place: **Marjorie Nesin, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA**

Nice addition of human element and color in a spot-news story.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Jason Graziadei, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

The reporter does a good job of parallel narrative, showing the reader how the story unfolded from different perspectives. Good verbs. Good description.

Second Place: **Joshua Balling, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Thorough. Important details regarding damage and conditions, big and small, all over the community.

Third Place: **Joshua Balling & Lindsay Pykosz, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Thorough.

SPOT NEWS STORY

CONTINUED

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Bill Forry, Dorchester Reporter, Dorchester, MA**

Bill Forry and the staff of the Dorchester Reporter produced an outstanding package that reflected both the broad significance of the Boston Marathon bombing and the jolt of pain to a community grappling with the death of one of their own, an 8-year-old boy. The paper's reporting of the stunning events cut through the "fog of war," as Mr. Forry put it, that enveloped the region. Their work shows why the world needs journalists.

Second Place: **Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA**

The staff of the Scituate Mariner excelled in the breadth and depth of its coverage of the Blizzard of 2013, giving readers both poignant stories and the information they needed to get through the storm. This is a great example of the need for smart, energetic local news reporting and a hopeful sign for the future.

Third Place: **Iain Wilson, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

This finely written story provided important and timely information about Hurricane Sandy, along with the personal stories and worries of local residents. An excellent example of the disaster roundup.

Honorable Mention: **Robert Levin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Robert Levin of The Mount Desert Islander hit all the right notes with his clearly written story about the store owner who collared a gunman. The excellent interview with the store owner completed the package.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Daily Newspapers

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

After years of crashes, fatalities and too many near misses, it took a routine report on an injured child to kick start a series of well researched and written stories that prompted officials to take action to better protect motorists at this notorious intersection. This is what good community journalism is all about. Kudos to the writer and the paper for digging into this compelling public safety issue.

Second Place: **Kevin O'Connor & Michael Gagne, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

This series represents both quantity and quality reporting. Exhaustive details published at every step of this campaign to initiate tolls was presented in relatively short, east to consume bites, making it easy for readers to first understand the issue and then to engage the government powers that be to come to a more acceptable resolution. I was completely drawn in, and

my interest was sustained from top to bottom. Well done!

Third Place: **Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Cassidy scripts a comprehensive series examining all facets of this seemingly no brainer transportation enhancement. Great job of engaging sources and combining what could be very dry data into an interesting and important package of articles.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Jason Graziadei, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

This reporter does a fine job of examining every aspect of this natural phenomenon wreaking havoc on the economic lifeline provided by local ferries. Utilizing a variety of informational sources, he explains the issue and the strategies to alleviate the problem. Well written, interesting and educational.

Second Place: **Ivy Ashe, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Ashe takes an in-depth look at a critical part of the Island's transportation infrastructure - weaving information and accounts from myriad sources into a thoroughly engaging and informative report.

Third Place: **Chris Church, North-East Independent, North Kingstown, RI**

The writer provides a balanced report on the one-year anniversary of a new commuter rail service experiencing a less than stellar start-up. This report proves the 'build it and they will come' philosophy does not always hold true. Good solid reporting.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

What a great special section involving students of all ages! It seems as though they get great participation and are very passionate about this project. Kudos to them!

Second Place: **The Day, New London, CT**

A very moving and inspirational annual effort and one they should be very proud of. I would have liked to know just how many of their readers participated.

Third Place: **Ken Ross, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Another great example of student involvement. I'd love to know how many students actually participate - is it a select few or a great many? An impressive weekly endeavor by the paper!

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA**

I like the community recognition and the fact that the process is now open to all townspeople. Nice community piece!

HEADLINE WRITING

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Ken Ross, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**
"To dye for."

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

"Some go free range; others go cold turkey."

Third Place: **Kellen Biell, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

"The lyrics on the bus go 'bleep, bleep, bleep'."

Weekly Newspapers

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

"Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition - Trenton Church holds 'second amendment Sunday' " - "Laundromat Flasher Makes Clean Getaway" - "Pot Brownie Baker Kneads No Jail Time" - These heds feature lots of attitude, fun and no doubt lots of readership.

Second Place: **Kelly Morgan, The York Weekly, York, ME**

"Allegiance to the Pledge?" - "Distillery permit opens spirited debate at beach."

Third Place: **Liz Boardman, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

"Search found body parts and a Mother's Day card" - Who wouldn't be compelled to read this article?!

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Paul Dietterle, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

Every week is sunshine week at Foster's. An excellent mix of work to keep officials on their toes and the public informed. The paper has a clear pattern of perseverance. It's a 365 day job.

Second Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Superb Sunshine Week effort. The best of all submissions. Lots of work leading up to publication that week.

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

This was the best single entry (story/editorial) in this category. If you can't trust the police to follow the law, how can you respect their work? Mass State Police are ignoring the law. These are public records and the police ignore the request, and don't return phone calls. Where's the Governor and the Attorney General?

Honorable Mention: **Scott Thistle, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

Tremendous nomination letter about roadblocks (including a

transcript and photograph), but not one word in the news story about the fight to attend a public budget briefing at the statehouse. Why didn't the Governor want the press there? Public needs to know the paper is fighting for transparency.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Great job calling out the town for failing to follow open government laws, including the school district's failure to turn over public documents. This sparked an investigation by the state, which wasn't fully transparent. And how about exposing the public relations firm hired to help spin the story about violating the law. In the end, violations everywhere.

Second Place: **Ann Wood & Staff, Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA**

It takes a lot of guts to take on a police department, especially in a small town where retaliation often happens. The town brass tried to derail the misconduct complaint about the police chief without an independent investigation; instead they let it fester. At least the finance committee understood the issues. Excellent pursuit of a tough story.

Third Place: **Nick B. Reid, The Hampton Union, Hampton, NH**

Excellent coverage on town shutting off TV video of ZBA meeting, but stories and editorial never made clear who actually controls the TV channel. Is it separate from the town (owned by cable TV)?

PAGES AND SECTIONS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

The Republican's Holyoke St. Patrick's parade special section is a tour-de-force. The issue is 48 pages of highlights of the parade with everything from a map of the event to features on local folks participating in the event. The issue is a celebration of local tradition and was very entertaining to review.

Second Place: **Julia Ann Weekes, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

The Union Leader's Arts and Entertainment section is a solidly written guide to arts and entertainment in New Hampshire. The writer's articles on musical performers reflect a real passion for the arts.

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

Lots to read in this fun section.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

CONTINUED

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

The lively front page captures attention immediately. It's refreshing to see a book section at all, especially so nicely laid out. The editorial content is equal to the quality of design with fine writing covering a variety of local events.

Second Place: **Adam Orth, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

Who puts a dead fish on the front page of their entertainment section? The layout for the Recorder Arts and Entertainment section immediately captures attention.

Third Place: **Ken Ross, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

The front page is a nice design that immediately catches the eye. There is a nice blend of events covered in the section and the feature on nature was very interesting.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

The front page of the Arts and Entertainment section is imaginatively laid out and the quality of the writer is equal to the quality of the design. The variety and the content inside the edition are also entertaining. The calendar section is very comprehensive.

Second Place: **Carol Dumas, Cape Codder, Orleans, MA**

The Cape Experience section is entertaining and informative. The feature articles are interesting and give a compelling snapshot of Cape Cod.

Third Place: **The Commons, Windham County, VT**

The Commons has a fine Arts and Entertainment section which gives a nice sense of what's going on in Brattleboro.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

The Barnstable Patriot's Arts and Entertainment section has a flavorful blend of events. The autumn apple harvest on the front page is bursting with a warm and homely fall spirit. The writing is lively.

Second Place: **The Register, Yarmouth, MA**

Michael O'Connor's column on the front page of the Arts and Entertainment sets a high bar for the rest of the section. The section covers quite a bit of ground in a few pages.

Third Place: **Features Editor, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

The Arts and Entertainment section has a very colorful front page covering a nice range of local events.

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Daily Newspapers

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

First class weekly business tab. Great structure, organization and design. Tons of local business info. No doubt a reader favorite.

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

An annual business Outlook section that's as good (and successful) as they get. Packed with stories that cover all aspects and categories of business, plus great advertising support.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Brandon, VT**

Terrific update for community residents after a devastating flood.

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

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Rick Holmes, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Rick Holmes' centerpiece column that raises questions about how the government acted before and after the Marathon Bombing is an important piece and a service to democracy.

Second Place: **Roger Carroll, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Nice balance of pieces on the editorial page - a national issue, a state issue, and a local one. Each piece stands up for the concerns of ordinary citizens - what an editorial page should be about.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

Good range of pieces on front page that set the local tone for the section.

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

A good volume of letters to the editor from readers.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

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

Good range of editorials, from very local to state issues. Jill Goldthwait's commentary takes the toughest stand on the page.

Second Place: **The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI**

Clear, to the point editorial.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Jenna Cho, Marisa Nadolny & Maria Reagan, The Day, New London, CT**

Featuring ethnic markets, the section provides a great line up of markets with tools - favorite items, noteworthy items, atmosphere, hours - very useful. Keep this one handy for reference.

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

All the fixings - great planner - presented early enough to do it all soup to nuts.

Third Place: **Joanna McQuillan Weeks, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Well written introduction to a local chef who has been turning out reasonably priced, good food since his teens.

Weekly Newspapers

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

This section captures the essence of this expanded festival - Nantucket Wine Festival - with brightly written, intelligent stories and good photography. Makes you want to meet the young chef, chat with Asimov and learn about wine from Jen.

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

Great articles and photography. Lots of choices - bacon eatery choices, ethnic markets, "Specialist of the House" selection, wine of the week, bakery choices and Bites news.

Second Place: **Kim Whalen, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Beautiful art - tempting recipes for fall ingredients and dishes in an appealing layout. Makes you want to run to the kitchen and cook.

Third Place: **Stephen Durkee, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Great, well written story - you just can't stop reading about this talented teen chef - pastry, CIA bound, captain of the football team. It's a great read!

FRONT PAGE

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Dhyana Sansoucie & Ron Sikora, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Really great headline and photo. The rest of the page is beautifully organized and presented.

Second Place: **Ron Sikora, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Lots of points of entry; excellent organization.

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

The headline and photo pull readers into this huge story for the community.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Jill Blanchette, The Day, New London, CT**
Pure shock and grief captured in this compelling front page.

Second Place: **Jennifer Driscoll, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Wonderful close-up of the elephant (makes you want to stare at it for a while), with excellent teaser heds to other good stories inside.

Third Place: **Bruce Phillips, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

The headline and picture set the tone, with excellent stories/heds treatment below.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

So many compelling stories on one page! Well done! Lots of solid local news - just what readers want.

Second Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

The "kiss" picture alone would command attention and readership, but there are four other strong stories on the page as well.

Third Place: **Greenwich Post, Greenwich, CT**

Clean layout, beautiful organization.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Watertown Tab & Press, Watertown, MA**

A huge story for this community (and the country) is captured in its entirety on this front page - great photo, headlines and teasers make this a "must read" for residents of the area.

Second Place: **Laura Snyder Smith, The York Weekly, York, ME**

Beautiful layout - many entry points. Extremely well done.

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

Several great stories - lots to attract readership.

Third Place: **Laura Snyder Smith, York County Coast Star, Kennebunk, ME**

Compelling story, great design - probably flew off the newsstands.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

A section with something for everyone. Well planned, interesting features: food, books, fashion.

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

Interesting package on used bookstores with location breakout.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Danny Crandall, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Strong art, good color and first-hand travel log. Author Fasteson conveys the fun, good times, beauty and tastes, friends and local color - very well done. Makes you want to schedule a trip.

Second Place: **Emely DelSanto, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA**

Graphic and well planned how-to. We all hear about strength training. This page takes the mystery out of it! The exercises, the costs, the equipment AND how to pick a trainer! Good job.

Third Place: **Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH**

This year's burger trend comes to life in color and design and recipes. Plus info on gluten-free places and meals.

Honorable Mention: **Emely DelSanto, The Herald News Fall River, MA**

Ride the River introduces a new adventure. Paddle boarding in detail - Well done!

Weekly Newspapers

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

Thorough, well written. This guide leaves no detail out of this keeper - 1st person account, emotional feelings about the experience, areas from the trails, food, gear and prep for the experience - it's all there!

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

This collection of guides to the fun of the season takes you to a craft store, Santa's arrival, art exhibit, music, crafts, recipes, event calendar. Clear, easy reading.

Third Place: **Laura Snyder Smith, The York Weekly, York, ME**

Great collection of reading - art, plants, food, music, birds - something for everyone!

Honorable Mention: **Dick Broom, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Well written - dispels the myth that porcupines shoot quills. They get quilled when they touch the creature!

SPECIAL SECTION OR EDITORIAL SUPPLEMENT

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

The traditional dead-of-winter "Outlook" section is alive and flourishing in Springfield. The paper offers a wealth of business topics and is jam-packed with the local "outlook" stories written by local writers. Bravo.

Second Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

We've taken the liberty of combining the two Telegraph entries as the second-place winner. These supplements - "25 Extraordinary Women" and "Nashua 50" are well-written and strong on the key players in the region. It is a formula worth repeating and recognizing. Excellent community service.

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

"A Salute to Women" continues for a second year its recognition of those women, past and present, who have done so much to advance the Lowell region: health staffers, writers, store owners, non-profit executives. Women from all walks of professional life are duly noted. And, there's even room for Louisa May Alcott.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

"The Age of Choice: Making the most of life's transitions" is a helpful guide to the "issues and trends common to the second half of life." Solid information on finances, health and insurance, mental health and leisure activities, all in an attractive, easy-to-read format that's destined to remain at the reader's reach as a quick reference. Nice touch for the Boomers.

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

The theme of its Business Outlook 2013 section is "The Economics of Crime" and the paper covers the topic quite well for its readers. Using current hot-button national topics as the overview for its local stories, the paper writes on gun control, scams, terror, banking, digital privacy and business secrets with local authority.

Third Place: **Diane Taylor, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

"Valley Parents" looks at a host of contemporary social issues that parents face and offers up a wealth of summer things to do. Nice combination of topics.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **The Commons, Windham County, VT**

"Irene: A Look Back, a Look Ahead" is a classy, cooperative, glossy magazine that examines what was and what comes from this hurricane that clobbered Vermont. Many voices share stories and strong writing. And it has several nice touches: photography, poetry, a local artist's cover of the water's rage, with the famed writer Archer Mayor using the scene for his next best-selling mystery. A magazine to keep.

SPECIAL SECTION OR EDITORIAL

SUPPLEMENT

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Curtiss Clark, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

A tragic event brings the world to Newtown and the local weekly responds with this complementary issue. The special edition recaps the news of the 28 deaths, the visit of the president and manages to keep its hometown readers informed, as well. Good job on an emotional and disturbing event that struck home.

Third Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

"Graduation 2013 & Where Are They Now?" spices up every newspaper's effort to recognize the year's graduating class. The Independent goes one step further and tracks down former graduates and reports to readers "here is where they are now." Good community effort.

Third Place: **The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

"Memorial Day 2013" tells of the lives lost in combat and those who came home. From a good graphic on the Civil War fallen to listings and photographs of those who served, this annual edition honors all and serves as a preview for the parade.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

"Summerscape 2013" goes beyond the summer guide supplement to engage local readers in local history. A solid mix of authoritative local writers offer stories tied to today with a look back. "Cape Cod's Greatest Romances: From Native Spirits to Pilgrim Triangle to Taylor Swift and a Kennedy" and "A Woman Scorned" from 1866 guarantee that, with the summer of 2013 events listed, this section has a long, long shelf life. Fun.

Second Place: **York County Coast Star, Kennebunk, ME**

We've combined the two entries - "Dining Guide" and "Christmas Prelude" as the second-place winner. These are nice magazines - well designed, fun to read and informative stories, with great photography, listing and visitor helps. The paper's magazine special sections are, simply, classy.

Third Place: **Julie Butler, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

We've combined the two entries - "Fall Preview" and "Kids World" - as the third-place winner. With news, features, calendars and where-to's - the paper has a winning formula.

SPORTS PAGE OR SECTION

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Beautifully designed section. Nice road race picture page. Comprehensive coverage.

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

Great local sports section with interesting features, such as "college stars," "10 years ago," "Around the horn with... "

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

Huge effort to cover all the Thanksgiving games in the area ("Feast for All"). Excellent photos.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Danny Crandall, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Complete section with nice mix of local and national sports. Clean layout, excellent organization, appealing look. Fun headlines!

Second Place: **Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

Outstanding local sports coverage with lots of content. A little light on major sports coverage though.

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

Fantastic "Where the fish bite" page!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Jay Pinsonnault, The York Weekly, York, ME**

A very attractive section with colorful content and terrific photography. Plus terrific feature coverage of a wide variety of high school sports and athletes in the community.

Second Place: **Middleboro Gazette, Middleboro, MA**

We've said it before. In sports coverage "a picture is worth a thousand words," and the Middleboro Gazette did an exemplary job capturing MHS's state baseball title through pictures and colorful description. Special kudos for coverage of a local sports event.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Dave Stewart, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

The New Canaan Advertiser produced a terrific Spring Sports Preview. The pre-season previews were detailed, colorful and well written. No sport was featured over another. AMEN. The complimentary color photography was superb.

Second Place: **Greg Lederer, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT**

A unique Spring Preview mixed with fall and current reviews of high school sports in the Cheshire Herald's Sports January Highlight Section made for a very interesting read. The content was terrific and very detailed. The section could have used some color photography, but the writing was just superb.

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL WRITING

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Ken Johnson, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

After reading Ken Johnson's editorials, I wanted to take out a petition to recall the mayor! The subject matter was compelling and the tone of righteous indignation was appropriate.

Second Place: **Amy MacKinnon, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Amy MacKinnon's editorials on important, timeless issues were elegantly and powerfully written.

Third Place: **William Mills, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
William Mills moves the needle with his editorials on relevant, local issues.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Howard Altschiller, Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH**

Howard Altschiller's editorials are a joy - hard-hitting, well-argued, easy to read, felicitous. Obviously he loves his craft.

Second Place: **Rick Holmes, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Refreshing editorials! Rick Holmes isn't afraid to be a contrarian.

Third Place: **Larry Parnass, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

Thoughtful, well-written editorials. An interesting array of local issues.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

These editorials eschew passion in making their point. Very well written.

Second Place: **David E. Frank, Henriette Campagne & Susan Bocamazo, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA**

I was pleasantly surprised to see these editorials devoid of legalese. Clear, convincing language makes the point effectively.

Third Place: **Mike Cleveland, The Cabinet, Milford, NH**
Whether doling out praise or slapping wrists, the editorials were a pleasure to read. Witty and literate.

Honorable Mention: **Macklin Reid, The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT**

Nicely done advocacy.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI**

In-your-face journalism at its best. The editorials use a punchy style to attack perceived wrongs. Great reading.

Second Place: **Biddle Duke, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Commentary and reasoned arguments are couched in a literate style.

Third Place: **Dan Atkinson, Somerville Journal, Somerville, MA**

These editorials explain as much as they advocate. Well-written.

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **M. Regina Cram, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

Insightful, honest and beautifully written.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Daily Newspapers

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

Powerful in its simplicity, this cartoon must have surely touched a nerve.

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

"1984" revisited in a most effective fashion.

Third Place: **Joseph Mahoney, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Bitter humor makes the point with great effort.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Don Landgren Jr., Telegram Towns, Worcester, MA**

The cartoonist offers a humorous take on what appears to be a ridiculous action by the education establishment. It makes an effective point through ridicule.

Second Place: **Douglas Smith, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Simply crafted, this is effective in spotlighting a critical issue.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Marty Riskin, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

A simple but powerful response to a horrendous event (Newtown).

Second Place: **Doug Smith, The Milford Mirror, Milford, CT**

This cartoon makes a point most effectively with ridicule.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Comedy is hard, especially in print, and Saralee Perel pulled it off. She was laugh-out-loud funny at times with slice-of-her-life topics that she made fresh.

Second Place: **John Breunig, Greenwich Time, Greenwich, CT**

Provides a you-are-there look into political royalty and real royalty, with a gentle reminder that we're all just people. Interactions with political celebrity (Texas Gov. Rick Perry and his wife) and folks clamoring to see a prince and polo brought readers into places they ordinarily don't get to go, yet without being mean to subjects or cloying in the writing.

Third Place: **Dan Mackie, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**
Extra credit for putting a twist on news fodder (Mayan mania, coming casinos) instead of sticking to tried-and-true humor column material.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Craig Salters, Hanover Mariner, Hanover, MA**
Deftly pulls off political commentary while playing with puns (who knew "Fiscal Cliff" had a brother named "Statistical Norm"?). And smart enough in the birthday homage to native son Norm Crosby to add the hometown comedian's malaprops while letting the hometown comedian do the heavy lifting of being funny in the column.

Second Place: **John Nolan, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH**
Sweet with touches of humor without trying too hard. Written in first person, but with the focus on other things (orchids) and other people.

Third Place: **Jessie Raymond, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**
Her writing's sense of place (too hot in Vermont) and a sense of simply living life (holiday stress) made her a cut above others writing first-person, slice-of-life columns.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Clive McFarlane, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
Clive McFarlane appeals to the best in his readers with cogent arguments, vivid prose, and a "shame on you" vigilance that evokes the high purpose of watchdog journalism. He takes on one town's leaders, observing "a regression of sorts - how small man's vision can be;" and he takes on the wide sweep of

American societal injustice with bravery and truth. A good thinker and fine writer.

Second Place: **Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Ron Chimelis can meld the significance of a gay pro athlete coming out, with the startling story of a Georgia high school holding its first integrated prom and make his readers think about where we are today as a society.

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

With some wit, Diane Williamson can call for an end to Tebowmania and then turn around another day, asking us to ponder deeply how we are "better than our darker angels" in letting a terrorist be buried in peace.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Tim Blagg, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
In a crowded and competitive field, Tim Blagg's columns stand out for their forthright, logical arguments with just the right dash of a man who knows what he's writing about. His columns have an air of authority, yet remain eminently readable. He can even admit "I've changed my mind" on an issue, lending more credence to his logic.

Second Place: **Marc Dion, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Marc Munroe Dion knows how to use the nearly lost art of irony. He knows how to put one sentence after another with muscular effect. His sparse style and short sentences should be emulated by more opinion writers.

Third Place: **Rick Holmes, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Rick Holmes bleeds sincerity and authenticity. You trust him. He knows that lists can work in good writing, coming up with 12 questions for the authorities on how they handled the Boston bombing.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Jill Goldthwait, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**
Writes with a pen that could have come down to her from Jonathan Swift.

Second Place: **Andy Kirkaldy, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

His sharp opinions are further honed by mustering an army of facts.

Third Place: **Eric Davis, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

What a rarity! A political columnist who has actually studied politics and writes with corresponding authority.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

CONTINUED

Honorable Mention: **Bill Eville, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA**

His range is wide and he applies a strong sense of humanity to his subjects. His feelings are palpable.

Second Place: **Paul Gauvin, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

Mr. Gauvin has a keen feeling for the practical problems of his community and a moving way of writing about them.

Third Place: **Tom Reilly, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA**

His sensitivity to the moral questions of our time is clearly delivered and gives pause to those of closed minds.

SPORTS COLUMN

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

Chimelis moves the story of an irate parent and a coach beyond the challenges of leading a prep team. In reporting on the way parents feel they have the right to berate a coach publicly, he shows how the decline in respect for authority figures, particularly those in the role of the teacher/coach, saps the joy in leading a team of young athletes.

Second Place: **Bill Burt, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Burt looks at one example of a fallen athlete and instead of wondering what went wrong with the man asks why his mentors, coaches and fans looked the other way when he broke rules—and was alleged to have committed crimes—over and over again. Misbehaving athletes have plenty of their own problems, but, as Burt points out, some of the responsibility for their transgressions has to be held by the people around them who let them get away with too much.

Third Place: **George Scione, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

A tennis star drops out of a high school match in the second set. Her parents say she was injured but also suggest the crowd was “hostile” to her. Scione looks into the claims and counter-claims, evaluating them point by point. He tells us about the student’s history of transferring schools. He refers to the vulgar vox populi from the Internet. By the end of the column we are convinced that sometimes high school sports live, as he phrases it, in the world of “teen drama normally reserved for TV movies.”

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

Comey’s tough take on Bill Belichick’s public approach on the Aaron Hernandez mess leaves the coach a reasonable amount of room to make the right choice. But not much more. Comey makes clear that Belichick has the job of leading, and that there isn’t an easy way out. Just the right one.

Second Place: **Mike Whaley, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

Writing about athletes who die young is easy, but writing on the sober side of maudlin is hard. Whaley takes the time to show why this young man was mourned so widely, bringing in plenty of examples from beyond the fields he played on. The reader is left appreciating Whaley’s subject because the story he tells comes across as honest and unvarnished.

Third Place: **Don Mahler, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

To show the courage Jason Collins demonstrated when he came out, Mahler found a former college athlete who similarly made her sexual orientation public. Hers becomes the story of the column, her trials, fears and success becoming the back-story of other athletes faced with making the same decision to come out.

Honorable Mention: **Chip Ainsworth, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

A story from the sidelines shows the deep hole a fan can fall into. Ainsworth writes about a people whose gambling on sports nearly ruined their lives, often more than once. His anonymous subjects reflect a side of sports rarely reported on or even discussed even though gambling is as common as the office NCAA pool.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Heather Harris, Easton Journal, Easton, MA**

Heather Harris poignantly uses her personal experience to emphasize that the true victims in the Penn State/Jerry Sandusky scandal were children who were molested, not the university, the football team and the fans who were outraged by NCAA sanctions. This is a timely topic bringing the impact of a far-away event to the local community. It’s a strong voice from one who knows from experience the ramifications of being victimized by a trusted adult.

Second Place: **Tim Murphy, The Wilton Bulletin, Wilton, CT**

Tim Murphy nicely presents the arguments against a rush to judgment in the case of a coach who made an inappropriate but not obscene or illegal film in his youth. The topic was timely since the coach had been either dismissed or had resigned but was seeking to regain his position. Murphy clearly points out the flaws with administrators making a decision before thoroughly investigating or involving the public in reaching a quick decision.

SPORTS COLUMN

CONTINUED

Third Place: **John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA**

This is a fun, self-deprecating column about the flip side of the American story of a father passing along his love of baseball to his son. The author portrays himself as a baseball ignoramus cajoled into the role of assistant coach, a position for which he fears he has no qualifications. Purely whimsical but nicely written.

DESIGN

ILLUSTRATION

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **James Warren, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Warren's style is refreshing, a new spin on traditional artwork. The portraits are lifelike but with a bit of an edge that makes this illustration a winner.

Second Place: **Shawn Braley, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

Simple and to the point, this illustration has a traditional feel to it that adds to the tenor of the story.

Third Place: **James Warren, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Another fine piece of portraiture from James Warren. The background feels a bit busy, though it reflects the content of the story.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Kim Proctor, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

A classic approach, this page embodies a strong sense of community and tradition. Especially coming just seven days after the Newtown shootings, this illustration offers hope for the future of Newtown and its citizenry.

Second Place: **Mark Armstrong, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Placing the Massachusetts state outline over the back of the elephant creates a good visual pun. It's a fun illustration...that still makes a point.

Third Place: **Michelle Snowden, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Another good visual pun, simply put. Clear thinking leads to clear execution - this illustration proves the point.

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Bridget Beorse, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

INFOGRAPHICS

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **James Warren, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

An excellent job of presenting a lot of facts in an interesting manner. Very clear. Very concise. Good artwork.

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

Very clear. Easy to follow and the interactive elements add interest and even more information.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Shawn Braley, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

A wonderful approach. Artful yet very informative. The drawing adds a comfortable touch and the organization is superior.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **The Warren Group Creative Department, Banker & Tradesman, Boston, MA**

These infographics are carefully executed, clear and to the point. Simplicity is key in infographics and these are exemplary in that regard.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION (PRINT)

Daily Newspapers

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

Good typography throughout, sound organization of content. Strong planning evident in key packages. Overall, a well designed product, worthy of first place.

Second Place: **The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

A strong second, with good photo use and good organization. Comfortable to read, easy to follow.

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Consistency and fine photo use are the hallmarks here. Careful attention to detail makes this a strong design. Well done!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Careful use of color, excellent typography, consistent standing elements, good photography all add up to a fine publication.

Second Place: **Stephen Durkee, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

A traditional approach, though not outdated or stodgy. The conservative, classic feel is very appealing.

Third Place: **The Mountain Times, Rutland, VT**

Well designed packages, good photos, good organization of content and fine use of color and typography. A pleasure to peruse.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **The Warren Group Creative Department, Banker & Tradesman, Boston, MA**

This publication's design imparts a sense of strong planning and attention to design consistency and detail. It's a pleasure to read.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION (PRINT)

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Wayland Town Crier, Wayland, MA**

Well organized and consistent. Comfortable to read and easy to follow.

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Hands down this package about the continuing and growing problem of drug addiction on the Cape - especially to prescription medications - is first-class journalism. The introductory video sets the tone and offers viewers strong reasons to read, listen, see the entire package. Personal stories are told without histrionics, but with sympathy and empathy backed with facts and information. Online materials - videos, interactive elements and photo galleries - are as closely edited as the print edition - a strong factor in elevating this package to first place. (Too often journalists do a "one-and-done" reporting effort on issues, so kudos to the staff for this package as its follow-up to a 2010 series on the same topic).

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

Video, slideshows and interactive graphics abound in this package about cleaning up the Blackstone River. The work acknowledges that the river is much cleaner than it used to be, but it doesn't let those responsible for cleaning it up and keeping it clean off the hook. An introductory video set the pace for the package.

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

Facebook, Twitter and text alerts became mainstays for informing readers during a week of winter storm coverage, as the entry form stated: "Especially if they lost power, which is almost a given on Cape Cod during a storm." The online materials of this coverage were comprehensive and useful - lots of emergency contacts. Photo galleries and video documented the path of the storms, cleanup, power outages, erosion and safety concerns.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Mark Gardner, Robin Chan, Mark Burrige, & Craig Salters, Hanover Mariner, Hanover, MA**

This package of articles and photos in print and the varied multimedia components online is a solid work of journalism. The multimedia work is introduced with an overview trailer that sets the tone for the rest of the work. Photo galleries and videos show strong editing skills and help the viewer with captions that ID everyone by name and title. The pieces work independently and together to educate readers about this program to treat

drug addiction. Prominent "refers" in print send those readers to the online materials. It is deserving of the first-place honor.

Second Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

If you were on Martha's Vineyard during Superstorm Sandy, it wasn't the Gazette's fault if you didn't know what was happening when. Storm updates, safety information, environmental damages, what was closed and open, where to get emergency shelter - told in text, photos, videos, graphics, Facebook posts and tweets - make a comprehensive package. (Kudos to the staff for moving around the island to find connections as power outages came and went).

Third Place: **Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

What fun - and the staff of the Boothbay Register captured it for both print and online in photo galleries, videos, text and audio.

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **AAA Horizons, Providence, RI**

A comprehensive package of articles and features (print & digital) that will entice many to plan a trip on Route 66.

WEBSITE DESIGN

Weekly newspapers

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

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Daily Newspapers

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

Clearly a lot of effort to create community engagement on their website including citizen bloggers, journalism class, photo galleries, student solutions, contests, The List. Even though the page views haven't met expectations, the types of activities generate engagement and should result in loyal, engaged readers.

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

Good local engagement that encourages increased depth of visit.

Third Place: **Gregory Bryant, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

It's not very glitzy, but who doesn't want to see the info on others? Some interesting information. It's puzzling that the page views aren't higher since it should enjoy a high number of visits as people dive in and get hooked.

OVERALL WEB SITE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Clean, open feel. Good content and good use of images. Invites you to read the articles. A news site designed for browsing.

OVERALL WEB SITE

CONTINUED

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

A good use of the template, but a bit cluttered. Despite being busy, it seems easy to find things.

Third Place: **Mike Elfland & Online Department, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Worcester Telegram & Gazette for the Pothole Finder!

Weekly Newspapers

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

Has a great small town newspaper feel in an attractive digital presentation. They've managed to bring the charm of their locale and publication onto the web. Definitely feels like the read for the Vineyard. Easy to use with timely, interesting articles.

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

It's a well-done newspaper website but it is clearly built from a template. Despite the generic feel, it has been customized into a good presentation and easy to use website. It has good content and the formula works.

MOBILE APPLICATION DESIGN

Daily Newspapers

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

A terrific mobile news product - works beautifully. Very user friendly and quick to find and get to what you're looking for.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Lots of advertising; a good resource for visitors and residents alike. Fun to browse.

OVERALL MOBILE APPLICATION

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Exciting looking app that's easy to navigate.

Second Place: **The Day, New London, CT**

Great organization and easy to use.

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

Clean and easy to use.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

Solid mobile news site - very clean and easy to use.

Second Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Solid ad support.

Third Place: **The Mountain Times, Rutland, VT**

NEWS VIDEO

Daily Newspapers

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

Strong narrative of an exciting and dramatic local news event at the Coast Guard Academy, as students receive assignments for their initial tours, where they will work and learn as fledgling officers aboard ships of the U.S. Coast Guard and National Oceanic Administration. The segment relies sparingly on staff narration, focusing instead on interviews with the students and their unrehearsed and enthusiastic reactions as each candidate stands before his or her peers to open the envelope that decides the future for the next two to three years.

Second Place: **Noah Bombard, David Niles & Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Television-worthy production values and professional-level storytelling skills mark this segment, part of a package of articles and videos on the environmental and financial costs of cleaning up eastern Massachusetts' Blackstone River, a once badly polluted legacy of New England as birthplace of the industrial revolution. Extremely high production values, including professional quality video and voiceover give this 5+ minute-long segment a polish often absent from even large-market television.

Third Place: **Jason Kolnos & Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

A genuinely interesting report on a section of coastal dunes that literally disappeared during a series of powerful winter storms. The combination of dramatic footage of the event itself and well-constructed shots of the aftermath effectively convey the power of the storm and the magnitude of changes to the seascape from the power of nature. The story is well told by blending intelligent staff reporting and narrative with interviews with beach visitors and residents.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Ryan Leighton, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

This unusual submission in the news category presents a startling and dramatic telling of a strong winter storm at one intersection in a Maine community. Using a fixed camera and time-lapse photography, the producer recorded 5,500 still images over 48 uninterrupted hours of heavy snow and high winds that drifted snow across streets as cars and trucks came and went and lights flickered on and off while the sun struggled to break through overcast skies. The driving musical beat heightens the dramatic effect, and the almost complete absence of narrative beyond a handful of text captions allow the video to tell its own powerful story, which serendipitously includes a transformer explosion that cuts off power to about half the community.

FEATURE VIDEO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Mary Schwalm, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Pow! The Eagle-Tribune serves up the perfect subject matter for a human interest story here, presented in an appropriately punchy manner. Excellent work.

Second Place: **Maryjo Wheatley, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

The Cape Cod Times ponies up a treat with this human-and-animal interest story. It canters on a bit, but as they say in the theatre, you can't go wrong with children and animals.

Third Place: **Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Important subject matter.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

Just think about carrying the video production equipment on a 22-mile, 10-hour hike in the rocky, hilly southern New England countryside, let alone the skills to constantly catch the right angles and the right light and the right natural sound while hiking over those miles and hours to be able to tell the story again later in a few minutes of video. This entry does that well indeed and its sights and sounds visually beckon you onto the trail yourself to hike along and explore and enjoy the route from Connecticut to Rhode Island.

Second Place: **Peter Huoppi & Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT**

This one wins on fine technical merit – from the thought and imagination that went into where to place the seven cameras that captured 12,000 frames, to the editing that went into choosing which of those frames and angles to splice together for the +/- 2-minute recap of a 19th Century whaling ship as it was rolled via hand cranks sideways for 50 feet in drydock.

Third Place: **Eric Anderson, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

A story about a woman who went searching for a simpler, less-stressful life and career after her son died and chose something that you don't find on every street corner – an alpaca farm in southeastern Massachusetts. The video, production and story itself are much like the furry alpacas themselves – sweet, simple, unassuming and a little bit surprising.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Ryan Leighton, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

Perfect pacing, camera angles, audio capture and in the end, fine editing let the story tell itself perfectly in this case. You're taken right into the thick of the frenetic story, with no need for the "usual suspects" -- reporter stand-ups or soliloquies and commentary by the participants or organizers. Particularly nice,

creative, innovative touch with "Lobster Cam." Great job, all the way around. (Special mention as well to another top-notch entry by Leighton: Penguin Plunge in which he once again used mobile cams – attached to or carried by the participants themselves in this case – to actually bring you splashing and plunging or tip-toeing into the frigid water).

Second Place: **Jesse Groening, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Jesse Groening wraps his lens around the legendary Yankee work ethic with his inspiring yarn of Andy Gove, a man who's been lobstering for 75 of his 83 years but, more importantly, heading out each and every day to be the best, hardest-working lobsterman to be found. "You've got to work hard. You can't just say 'Well, I've made a little bit, it's enough'," Gove says. "He used to be the top dog for years and years and years," his sternman tells us. "He went the hardest; caught the most; went the farthest. Doing something he loves." Based on the quality of his work in this case, Groening is working hard and doing what he loves as well.

Third Place: **Caitlin Flaherty, Wareham Courier, Wareham, MA**

A story about inspiring people with big hearts who remodel and enlarge the home of a neighbor so she can better care for her two grandsons, one of whom has cerebral palsy. What helps make this entry stand out is that it isn't a slick, highly polished professional video package like you'd find on a TV news site or a large media organization's; its effectiveness and charm and heart are found a bit in its rough edges. Much like the neighbors themselves, who aren't professional home remodelers but pour their souls into the project and ultimately build a fine and worthy home. It's sweet and heart-warming without being schmaltzy and has a touch of a home movie feel to it.

SPORTS VIDEO

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**
The character of these four boys carries this skillfully made video.

Second Place: **David Willis, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

This talented sports reporter nicely captures the moment of victory.

Third Place: **David Niles & Noah Bombard, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Chicks acting tough on skates... what could be bad?

Weekly Newspapers

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

This terrific story of a blind wrestler is told concisely; the subject is worthy of a feature film!

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Carlos Diaz, The Day, New London, CT**
Lovely story, nicely done. Videos about music and musicians can be pretentious and heavy-handed, but this one exhibits a light touch and is delightfully devoid of pathos.

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
The enterprise and production skills of this team combined to elevate what might have been a routine, if terribly sad police short into an excellent and fascinating tale of a horrific late-night automobile crash that left a 3-year-old dead, another child badly injured and their mother facing charges. The video, at a bit more than 2 minutes in length, never lags despite relying minimally on staff-produced video. Skillfully combining a stark, third-party security video with still photography, the team uses voiceover from witnesses and officials to tell a gripping tale.

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

Concise and emotionally charged, this segment conveys in less than two minutes the depth of sadness, frustration and anger provoked by this ongoing local news story. The production and reporting team used the vivid reactions of courtroom observers and the defendant herself to capture one of the final chapters in the wrenching saga.

SLIDESHOW

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Don Himsel, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**
High quality photos and rich audio made this slideshow a pleasure to watch.

Second Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
You can tell a lot of work went into this slideshow.

Third Place: **Christine Hochkeppel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
A nice look at a beloved neighborhood institution. Well done!

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

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

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

FEATURE PHOTO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

Very nice feature of three very happy fans!

Second Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Excellent image of the contestants! Nicely done peak action!

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

Artsy treatment for a potentially mundane assignment. Good image!

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Paul Franz, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
Well done by seeing the potential in the raindrops, then capturing a sharp drop collage!

Second Place: **Dana Jensen, The Day, New London, CT**
A strong feature image of a dirty picture! Well done - great action!

Third Place: **Mike Phillips, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
How did you find two cooperative bird models? Nicely done!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Downright beautiful image and I usually don't like sunset or sunrise images. Very strong!

Second Place: **Aimee M. Henderson, Belchertown Sentinel, Belchertown, MA**
Strong image of maple season! Nice action. Well done!

Third Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**
Great composition and a lofty image in general.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Christina Styan, The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA**

Fine feature treatment for an image of an artist! Well done!

FEATURE PHOTO

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Kathy Szmit, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

Excellent nature feature - caught at peak action. Very strong image.

Third Place: **David Still II, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

A great portrait of a turtle! I didn't know they have eyelashes. Well Done!

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Kari Curtis, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Well done.

Second Place: **Bob Mullen, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

A peaceful moment.

Third Place: **Jennifer Hewes, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Cute fashion image.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Mark Garfinkel, Boston Herald, Boston, MA**
Strong emotion filled image! Well done!!

Second Place: **Don Himsel, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**
Wow - We won! Peak action of the supporters. Nice image.

Third Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Tender family moment for an extended family. Good strong image!

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Desi Smith, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA**

A piece of art! Very emotional image!

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

This image is pure joy! Well done!

Third Place: **Dana Jensen, The Day, New London, CT**
A tender moment in the wake of tragedy! Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Strong educationally oriented image. The child's wonder shows! Nice image.

Second Place: **Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Nice image.

Third Place: **Steve Fuller, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Strong image of a kayaker doing what kayakers do!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

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

Peak action of an elderly gentleman excited over fishing. Good image.

Second Place: **Bryan Haeffele, The Wilton Bulletin, Wilton, CT**

A solemn moment. Strong composition.

Third Place: **Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA**
Nicely composed moment in time.

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Betty Jenewin, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Wow! This is a really well conceived image that is a composition masterpiece. A fine job of photo journalism.

Second Place: **Michael Gordon, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

A portrait of a man who is comfortable with his work. Very well done!

Third Place: **Jim Shannon, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

A sign of the times! You turned the annual Yom Kippur required image into a strong image.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Paul Franz, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

Very nice composition! You have turned a dull assignment into art! Very well done.

Second Place: **John Sladewski, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Excellent profile image! Well done.

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

A very loud image! Nice work.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Ray Ewing, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Cute, funny photograph of two ends meeting! Fine moment.

PERSONALITY PHOTO

CONTINUED

Second Place: **Timothy Johnson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Portrait of two strong willed creatures. Nicely executed.

Third Place: **Audra Napolitano, The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT**

Strong portrait.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

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

Excellent moment of "group" personality.

Second Place: **Tom Gorman, Weymouth News, Weymouth, MA**

This is a touching moment in the long chain of honorable firefighters - the unsung heroes in our world where apparently everyone is a hero.

Third Place: **Nicole Goodhue Boyd, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA**

Strong image of a Globetrotter doing what Globetrotters do!

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Stephanie Piscitelli, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Strong portraiture work. Well composed.

Second Place: **Marion Ortel, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Generational paddle boarding. Well done.

Third Place: **Kari Curtis, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

PHOTO SERIES

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Your fighting the fish story is very well done. You did a great edit and ran a strong set of images. Well done!

Second Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Excellent story. You would have taken first place, but a guy with your name beat you out... Great job.

Third Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Great job in covering the light house!

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

Ken, you did a fantastic job of keeping your composure and doing your job! Congratulations on fantastic coverage of a horrific event from all of us fellow photojournalists who have covered events like this. Well done!

Second Place: **Carol Lollis, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

Well done sensitive coverage of the challenges of a double amputee. Strong set of images of which you should be very proud. Nice work!

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

Well done series on the statue erection!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Shannon Hicks, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

Strong collection of images from a breaking news event. Well done in keeping your head in your job.

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

Strong set of images to document the storm. Well done.

Third Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Good set of sailing images. Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**

Excellent coverage of a candidate. Extensive, well edited and complete. Nice job.

Second Place: **Chris Bernstein, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA**

Good set of images on the day of a firefighter battling a house fire. Nice work.

Third Place: **Emily Thurlow, The Journal Register, Palmer, MA**

This is a well done story, although too many images on the pages. Better to feature just strong images with a more discerning edit.

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Tom Rettig, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Very nice early spring in the city image. Well done.

Second Place: **John Suchocki, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Excellent macro work! What else can I say? Good job!

PICTORIAL PHOTO

CONTINUED

Third Place: **Chris Massa, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Art! That about covers it. Very, very nice image.

Honorable Mention: **John Suchocki, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

I am a photojournalist, but prior to that, I taught life science and botany. Normally, I don't like spiders, but this is a very strong image of a child studying a spider. Very well done macro work!

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

Excellent moment in time! Sharp, well composed, very nice light and a cooperative bee all make for a winning image. Great image.

Second Place: **Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT**

Excellent composition and an image showing your willingness to wait for the leap! Well done.

Third Place: **Jeb Wallace-Brodeur, The Times Argus, Barre-Montpelier, VT**

Superb micro work. Nice back light and composition.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Kirk R. Williamson, Cape Ann Beacon, Gloucester, MA**

Beautiful image! Enough said as the image speaks for itself and your talent in capturing it.

Second Place: **David Sokol, North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA**

Very beautiful image. I would be proud to have it hanging in my office.

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

Excellent long lens work.

Honorable Mention: **Alison Shaw, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

It is seldom in these days of color everything that you see outstanding black & white imagery. This is pure black & white art! Well done!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Kate Flock, Roslindale Transcript, Roslindale, MA**

Nice eye to see this image and capture it. Well done.

Second Place: **Jon Haglof, Middleboro Gazette, Middleboro, MA**

Excellent composition of this scene.

Third Place: **Glenn Callahan, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Leaf peepers in Vermont in the fall.

SPORTS PHOTO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

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

We win! This is a very strong image of celebration and joy in sports. Fine image!

Second Place: **Mary Schwalm, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

This is a fine basketball image proving that basketball is in fact a contact sport! Nice moment in a run-shoot, run-shoot sport. Well done!

Third Place: **Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Fine victory moment. Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **Dana Jensen, The Day, New London, CT**

Excellent home plate action! Face of the catcher and the tag with the ball, it is all there in plain sight! Very strong action.

Second Place: **Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT**

The thrill of victory in pixels! Great actions and perfect composition of the event. Nicely done!

Third Place: **Mark Stockwell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

I have seen a lot of leap shots in my many years of photojournalism, but I have never seen one as good as this! Very well done image!

Honorable Mention: **Mark Stockwell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

You have captured an image that is pure art of a sport that is in general anything akin to art. This is not a grip and grunt image of the sport, but it is a very strong image of the sport in general. Very nice image!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

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

Strong base action. The faces of two players and the base at once!

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

Strong action proving that they are turning basketball into rugby!

SPORTS PHOTO

CONTINUED

Third Place: **Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Good field hockey action! Could be greatly improved with a tighter crop!!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Jon Haglof, The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA**

Top lacrosse action. Faces, ball, rackets and contact, all there - Well done!

Second Place: **Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA**

Nice basketball action. Great crop!

Third Place: **Glenn Callahan, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

The fellow on the left makes this Gatorade both unique and a great image.

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Christine Hochkeppel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Excellent spot news image!

Second Place: **Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

A stormy image! Very strong!

Third Place: **Mark Garfinkel, Boston Herald, Boston, MA**

A very funny fire image. Good eye!

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

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

This is an excellent set of images from the bombing scene. Well done. You were pressed into combat/battlefield conditions without losing your composure! Great job!!

Second Place: **Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT**

Devastated! The image says it all! Great image!

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

Excellent image of a very sad moment in time.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Shannon Hicks, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

Excellent spot news of the school evacuation.

Second Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Strong storm image of a strong storm!

Third Place: **Timothy Johnson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Surf's up!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)

First Place: **Chris Bernstein, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA**

Very strong fire image! Nice capture of the flames.

Second Place: **Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA**

A very cold image. Great composition.

Third Place: **Glenn Callahan, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**

Good strong aftermath image.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)

First Place: **Jim Preston, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Congratulations on a very cool image! From time to time, I see an image that is unique in my years as a photojournalist and editor. This is an idea I have never seen before! Nice job!

Second Place: **Don Himself, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

This is a highly creative set of illustrations. Nicely executed!

Third Place: **David Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Well done stroboscopic image of the pitcher.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)

First Place: **John Huff, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

Strong homeless image. Very well done illustration.

Second Place: **John Huff, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

Strong illustration work.

Third Place: **James M. Patterson, Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

Clever treatment!

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

First Place: **Nicole Goodhue Boyd, Salem Gazette, Salem, MA**

Excellent job! Just excellent! Well planned and executed image. Did I mention excellent?

Second Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

You have done da Vinci's Vitruvian Man proud with this illustration - Well done!

Third Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Excellent. John Belushi is screaming even now!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

DIGITAL STRATEGY EXCELLENCE

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Distinctive in its look and content, this site matches the tone set by the print edition. Visits are up 71% since the relaunch, and ad gains are impressive (although the site's full advertising potential remains to be leveraged).

INNOVATOR AWARD

The Day, New London, CT

This is inspiring and hopeful for our industry. Every newspaper should take a look at what The Day accomplished here. High school sports are a core coverage area for local newspapers in every community across the nation, and The Day has shown what we are capable of doing if we really try. Beautifully executed by every department in the paper (they made a 22% profit on this with great ad support). Plus, the local schools bought in fully. Imagine doing this sort of thing for other events in the community too -- other sports, academic competitions, festivals, political debates, etc. The quality of this all-around effort broke new ground. Congratulations!

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspapers

Ariel Wittenberg, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Wittenberg has done a service to readers of The Standard-Times, reporting quite well on issues of concern: wind turbines, politics, lives of immigrants, contaminated soil, the fishing industry, toxins. Good research, strong reporting. Thank you.

Weekly Newspapers

Steve Coulter, The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT

Well-rounded collection of clips - investigative, business, feature, social media. Never easy to cover a beat and squeeze in time for an investigative piece, in this case, the prescription drug series. Coulter has been given and taken the time to report on a range of society's issues and done a solid job. His work benefits the readers of The Ridgefield Press. Nice work.

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspapers

Rick Foster, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Weekly Newspapers

David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Daily Newspapers

Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Weekly Newspapers

Shannon Hicks, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Daily Newspapers (circulation > 30k)



First Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Extensive enterprise reporting, elegant design, solid sports, features and business. Outstanding newspaper.

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

Solid all-around newspaper. Comprehensive coverage with clean, contemporary design.

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

Lots to read, but the presentation and reproduction could be improved.

Daily Newspapers (circulation < 30k)



First Place: **Valley News, Lebanon, NH**

A daily that acts like a robust, small weekly.

Second Place: **The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Solid throughout. The cancer awareness was an incredible package.

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

Best storytellers in the New England industry, hands down.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation > 6k)



First Place: **The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT**

Outstanding coverage scope, excellent use of traditional layout and design fundamentals to maximize impact, great balance of columns/letters on editorial page.

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

Jam-packed with wide variety of content with appeal to wide readership. Truly outstanding presentation of editorial content.

Third Place: **North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA**

Visually appealing due to excellent use of photos and progressive layout elements, high quality of writing and reporting. A supremely readable newspaper.

Weekly Newspapers (circulation < 6k)



First Place: **The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

Four solid sections (news, sports, entertainment, focus) with 48-52 pages of broadsheet information and pictures (beautiful color). Little watchdog journalism practiced in this category by all the papers, but Vermont Standard went the extra mile in a story on a fired police officer. Good layout.

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

Pro: Excellent storytelling and clean design. Nice arts coverage. Lots of letters. Con: Get rid of cutesy titles, and sports is lacking, which would be a good hook for young readers.

Third Place: **Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA**

Third Place: **Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA**

Third Place: **Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

Honorable Mention: **South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

Excellent layout and color. Tighter and direct leads needed on some stories. Solid sports section including the firing of NECBL manager.

Specialty Newspapers



First Place: **The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

Great leads and transitions. Very enticing, direct reporting. Striking images, beautiful layout, eye appealing ads, and true community service.

Second Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

Textbook local business coverage from A-Z. Superior modular design, and robust local ads.

Third Place: **Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

A must read in every home with kids. The enterprise package on special needs was incredibly powerful and well presented. The only thing that would have added to the paper's excellence would be the inclusion of more third-person reporting.



DISTINGUISHED JUDGES PANEL

Larry Laughlin - Former Northern New England AP Bureau Chief; Editor of NEFAC Report

Len Levin - Former Copy Desk Chief, Providence Journal

Linda Lotridge Levin - Dept. of Journalism, University of Rhode Island

Jeff Lyon - Columbia College Chicago; Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter with the Chicago Tribune, former deputy editor, Chicago Tribune Magazine

Jean McDonald - University of Illinois; former sports writer, sports editor, and director of electronic publishing at the Champaign (IL) News-Gazette

Lincoln McKie, Jr. - Northeastern University; former publisher, Journal Transcript Newspapers, former executive editor, Lowell Sun, former managing editor, Telegram & Gazette

Steve Milone - Director of Circulation, North of Boston Media Group, VP, Director of Circulation, The Eagle-Tribune

Charles J. Mouratides - Former Executive Editor, Lerner Newspapers, Chicago, IL

Dr. Brett Rhyne - New England journalist and educator, RhyNewService

Christopher Ritchie - Penn State University; former features editor at the Delaware State News, rewrite desk chief at the Middlesex News, and editor positions at the Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times-Leader

Chris Roberts - University of Alabama; former reporter and editor at The Columbia (SC) State, The Birmingham News and the Jacksonville (AL) News

Bob Ryan - Former VP Knight-Ridder Digital and San Jose Mercury News

Ted Ryan - Retired sports editor, Burlington Free Press

Bill Sarno - Associate Editor, Hartford Guardian, former editor of the Bristol Press and Lakeville Journal

Dan Sheriden - Former editor at Bergen Record, Chicago AP, and Gary (IN) Post-Tribune

Robert Schrepf - Retired vice president, editorial page editor, The Hartford Courant

Del Schwinke - Co-coordinator of Communications and Journalism Program at Washington University; former Advertising Manager, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

James Smith - Former editor at the Record-Journal, Connecticut Post, New Britain Herald, The Day, The News-Times; sports editor and city editor at the Hartford Courant

Emily Sweeney - Reporter, The Boston Globe, president NE Society of Professional Journalists

Rebecca Tallent - University of Idaho; former ombudsman for the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review

Chip Visci - California Polytechnic State University; former publisher, San Jose Mercury News, former VP Knight-Ridder Newspapers

John Voket - Associate Editor, The Newtown Bee, Director of Public Affairs, Cox Media Group, CT

Maggie Walter - University of Missouri; former features editor at the Portland Press Herald, editor at The Telegraph of Nashua, and reporter at the Anderson (IN) Bulletin and Kokomo (IN) Tribune

Susan Walker - Vice President/General Manager, Herald Newspapers Inc., Chicago, IL

Stephen Wolgast - Kansas State University; former news design editor at The New York Times, executive news editor at The Akron Beacon Journal, page one designer at the New Orleans Times-Picayune, wire editor at the Casper (Wyo.) Star-Tribune, reporter at the Baltic Independent (Estonia), and photographer at the Topeka Capital-Journal

Wayne Agner - Editor and Publisher, The Trinity Journal, Redding, CA

Scott Anderson - Northwestern University; former head of editorial at Chicago Tribune Interactive, former reporter and editor at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, former reporter at The Patriot Ledger

Joseph Bergantino - Executive Director, Managing editor and Co-Founder of New England Center of Investigative Reporting

Dr. Catherine Cassara - Bowling Green State University; former reporter for the Lewiston Daily Sun, The Journal Tribune of Biddeford, Maine, The Pictorial of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, and assistant editor, The Times of Springfield, Virginia

Sherry Chisenhall - Editor, Wichita (KS) Eagle

Renita Coleman - University of Texas; former reporter, editor and designer at the Raleigh News & Observer, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, and the Orlando Sentinel

Kim Dalglish - Former VP Marketing and Specialty Publications, The Columbia (SC) State, Bradenton (FL) Herald, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Darell Davis - VP Creative Services, Metro Creative Graphics

Bill Densmore - Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellow and Director of the Media Giraffe Project

Mike Donoghue - Burlington Free Press, St. Michael's College

Robert Earley - Publisher at Lane Communications, former General Manager, The Elkhart (IN) Truth

Rob Forrest - Art Director, Metro Creative Graphics

Chuck Fountain - Professor, Northeastern University

Jane Fritsch - Iowa State University; former reporter and editor at The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Associated Press, Chicago Tribune, Newsday and the Chicago Sun Times. Pulitzer Prize finalist for investigative reporting; Contributor to NYT Pulitzer Prize winning coverage of Sept. 11.

Wendell Funk - Former VP Advertising, Wichita (KS) Eagle

George Geers - Publisher, Plaidswede Publishing Co. Director, New Hampshire Writers' Project, Journalist

Dr. Nancy L. Green - Former VP Circulation, Lee Enterprises former publisher, Courier Communications

Larry Grimes - President, W.B. Grimes & Co. and The Sports Advisory Group

Patrick Hafford - Web General Manager, CSMonitor.com

Jim Hart - Partner, Integrated Advertising Solutions, DM for Newspapers

Ed Henninger - Design Consultant, Henninger Consulting

Robert Holt III - Former AME Director of Photography and Director of Operations and Technology, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; former Director of Publishing Industry Marketing, Scitex

Tim Kane - Executive Editor, Turley Publications

Bill Kirtz - Northeastern University; former editor for the Patriot Ledger and publisher/editor for the Marblehead (MA) Messenger.

Susan Knight - University of Arizona; former editor at Tucson Weekly, reporter at the Arizona Daily Star

Bill Kole - New England Bureau Chief, Associated Press

Steve Kurkjian - Former Boston Globe reporter and editor, founding member of the Globe's Spotlight Investigative team, shared in three Pulitzer Prizes awarded to the team.

Robert Laska - Former President & Publisher, Connecticut Post