

INSIDE: COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES COMMENTS

Presented on February 16, 2019

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS JOURNALISM



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

This year's special award winners

General Excellence

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Providence (RI) Business News Fiddlehead
Magazine

Rookies of the Year

Leah Willingham, *Concord (NH) Monitor*
Miranda Willson, *Medford (MA) Transcript*

Reporters of the Year

Doug Fraser, *Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Andrew Martin, *The Stowe (VT) Reporter*

Photojournalists of the Year

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

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION





CONGRATULATIONS NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

This year's competition drew more than 3,000 entries that were published during the contest year August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018. The entries were evaluated by the New England Newspaper & Press Association's distinguished panel of judges. The results of the competition listed here recognize the excellent revenue and audience building activities that are taking place throughout New England — the finalists and winners are listed, along with the judges' comments.

NENPA is proud to celebrate this truly extraordinary work!

Entries were judged in five categories:

- ◆ Daily Newspapers with circulation up to 25,000
- ◆ Daily Newspapers with circulation more than 25,000
- ◆ Weekly Newspapers with circulation up to 6,000
- ◆ Weekly Newspapers with circulation more than 6,000
- ◆ Specialty and Niche Publications

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 Rookie of the Year
 Reporter of the Year
 Photojournalist of the Year
 General Excellence

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Joshua Lyford,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

The reader gets a behind-the-scenes look, a peek into the rough-and-tumble of the life of touring musicians from Worcester where the loading, unloading and setting up takes a greater toll than the frequent partying. It's a candid, well-written piece by a reporter taken into the confidences of the "crossover-thrash" act High Command. You learn the musicians would have it no other way - they live, for now, they say, for The Experience.

Second Place: Alexander Castro,

Newport Mercury, Newport, RI

This is an intimate look at an artist and a museum where they hang some of the art in the windows to lure and titillate passersby. The strong lead gets you right into the story and insights about how artists in multi-media - from paint to video - work and, more importantly perhaps, think about their work.

Third Place: Jennifer Huberdeau,

UpCountry Magazine, Pittsfield, MA

With attention to detail and a straight-forward approach, this writer takes what could be a boring experience - a visit to a historic home in Western MA - and turns it into an interesting adventure, primarily by concentrating on the little things that tell the big story of life: a book of home remedies, a garden basket, a diary, wooden dumbbells.

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Sue Harrison,

Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

Sal Del Deo lives physically and spiritually in this story, a story of a 90-year-old artist who leads an interesting life that is well written by a writer who shows us just how interesting Deo's life was and is. The "power of silence" indeed.

Second Place: Phil Devitt,

The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA

This is a great look behind the scenes of a wildly successful high school band program, as told by the kids, the staff and the band family. This is not an extra-curricular club but a serious, strenuous endeavor with fitting rewards, where the dedication of sweat, sore feet and time teach important life lessons.

Third Place: Tommy Gardner,

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The personality piece shows us that Jeff Daniels is not only a skilled performer but a real, complicated person, too. The narrative rings true and tells the reader a lot of stuff - human experience things - they likely didn't know about Daniels.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Dan Bolles,

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

This is a fascinating, charming, whimsical story about someone who may not even be real. It's a good read, a non-judgmental telling of a mystery that encompasses jazz, poetry, love and the human condition.

Second Place: Heather Hamacek,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Carol Brown Goldberg is a fascinating subject brought to life in a well-written story that clearly explains a complicated artist and person. The writer presents her as a wonderfully articulate woman in touch with herself and her art which, we learn, all began with "doodles"

Third Place: John Flowers,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Good, descriptive writing brings this actor, director and teacher to life. Using a lot of sources and the subject himself, the reporter tells a story that is both interesting and inspiring.

Daily Class 1

First Place: Will Broaddus,

The Salem News, Salem, MA

This well-written feature captures this eccentric well and made me want to see his works in person. Captured him, his art and his family well. Also, the graphics added to the overall presentation.

Second Place: Linda Murphy,

The Herald News, Fall River, MA

With a lot of empathy, Linda presents a great picture of the subject, Janice. Heart, balanced with a smooth narrative, results in a great feature.

Third Place: Jennifer Huberdeau,

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

A great overview of the exhibit. Clearly understands the subject and can convey it to the reader. Well done!

Daily Class 2

First Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Tracey takes the reader through the process of authentication and makes the detection steps interesting and part of a smooth narrative. Nicely done!

Second Place: Dana Barbuto,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Interesting background and narrative about the collision of Hollywood and a small New England town. Well fleshed out and charming. Really takes the reader to that time and place.

Third Place: William Kole and Steven Senne,

The Associated Press, Boston, MA

Sensitive story telling captures a very painful time in a family's life. The combination of facts, figures, explanations and the outlet provided by art make for an excellent, necessary article.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Daily Class 1

First Place: Sarah Pearson,

Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

This arts and entertainment section is chockful of interesting local stories spanning everything from children's theater to comedy shows to fine art. The stories are tight, the calendar section is complete and the presentation is absolutely gorgeous! Excellent work!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION *(continued)*

Second Place: Nancy Olesin and Staff,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Strong coverage of local music, fine arts and theater with terrific local reviews of Bollywood films- something you don't often see in newspapers these days. All that combined with a thorough calendar and beautiful design make this section a gift to MetroWest readers.

Third Place: Jerry Boggs and Staff,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Very good coverage of the local arts and music scene. Well-written piece on "west Side Story" and "Unsung Hero's" make this an interesting read. The food reviews are the icing on the proverbial cake!

Daily Class 2

First Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

If it isn't in the Summer Times section, it isn't happening on Cape Cod. This section is a wonderful compilation of all the awesome events and experience on the Cape. From food to nightlife, from music to theater, from farmers markets to fine art shows, there is something for everyone. The robust calendar makes this section a keeper! Excellent work!

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Great compilation of summer events in the Springfield area - all generated by staff members or local contributors. There is strong coverage of the music and theater scenes for sure but the food, wine and beer coverage is phenomenal! The calendar is a major plus! Nice Work!

Third Place: Dana Barbuto,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Great coverage of the local theater and music scenes by the staff. Your very readable "Go Guide" and excellent layout make this a pleasure to read. Bravo!

Weekly Class

First Place: Howard Karren,

Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

Now this is an excellent arts and entertainment section! From fine art to photography, from theater to film, from music to storytelling, the Banner leaves nothing out. The calendar is complete and I love the "Save the Date" boxes. Congratulations on such a reader-friendly section!

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

Great arts & entertainment section that includes deep coverage of diverse artists. This section has a wide array of stories about music, film, fine art, theater and speaker series. Nice robust calendar section. Bravo!

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Great lead story "Strings attached" anchor this well designed and readable arts and entertainment section. Kudos on the strong theater coverage and delightful calendar section!

AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Annie Sherman,

Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

This was a hard category to judge. The Newport writing contest obviously has interest in the community – would love to see the winners published on a weekly basis over the year in the newspaper!

First Place: Patti Bangert,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This was a hard category to judge. The Rising Stars designation for students from across the Cape is compelling and draws interest. The students are impressive.

Weekly Class

First Place: Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

The Cache supplement offers good information about the town's arts' community, with good articles written by people involved in a variety of organizations. After reading the section, my thought was, "I didn't know that about Medford. Now I do." Hopefully, the articles are followed up with timely coverage of various events.

Second Place: Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Glad to see student writing and glad to see local focus of some of the essays. Perhaps newspaper staff can work with AP teacher(s) to get students to refine local focus more so all articles reflect the town. Are any commercial fishermen from Marshfield fishing for sharks? What do local fishermen think of shark finning?

Third Place: Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA

Newspaper readership is enhanced when students' articles are included in regular issues.

Daily Class

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

Getting students to write is no easy task and finding quality writing that merits publishing can be challenging, too. The Classroom Times gives students a voice. They show they are up to the task. Caroline Brodt's essay about her sister was descriptive, emotional and honest. She brought the reader into her life. She paints pictures with words. Estia and Crisp Flatbread are on my list for food the next time I'm on the Cape!

Second Place: Tommy Cassell,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

The MetroWest earns praise for giving students space to write in their own voices. That it appears weekly is even better. Spencer Robbins is a good writer and he reports well on himself. Starting with the present, then taking the reader back, he gives context to his story. Offering his record-breaking long jump in the same sentence as getting a prom date puts it all in perspective. He's a young person who allows himself to remain young while writing beyond his years.

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Death-with-dignity laws and the debates that lead to them, or not, are difficult, and they are important.

The forum presents thoughtful essays from a good cross section of academics at Worcester area colleges. The writing is clear. The readers benefit. Discussion in homes, workplaces and classrooms followed, I'm sure.

BEST BLOG ON A NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Combined Class

First Place: **Faith Gong,**
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Incredibly entertaining!

Second Place: **Peter Chianca,**
North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA

Third Place: **Peter Chianca,**
North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA

BEST INFOGRAPHIC ON WEBSITE

Weekly Class

First Place: **Andrea Suozzo,**
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Excellent presentation of a wide scope of data. Layout is good and accessible. Size of graphic is very good. A textbook example of using data to tell a story.

Second Place: **Caitlyn Kelleher,**
Newton Tab, Newton, MA

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

Daily Class

First Place: **Gregory Bryant, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
The increase in great white shark sightings in New England was a top news event of 2018. It is a dramatic and ongoing story that has caused fear and concern at one of Americas most popular destinations. The data visualizations prepared by the Cape Cod Times present readers with an even more frightening perspective on the accumulated attacks over recent months. It is a presentation that only data can provide and the paper did an excellent job in gathering, organizing, designing, coding and presenting the shark attack data. It is a frightening map indeed and unwelcomed for locals and tourists. But this is a "must have" information that must be boldly presented for security and safety purposes and the Times has done so.

Second Place: **Jim Haddadin,**
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
This graphic is addictive. It very effectively shows how impactful and informative data-based graphics can be. This is an age-old issue but the graphic brings a totally new experience for the reader. Nice layout, good data and it is timely and always available. Excellent!

Third Place: **Alexandra Nicolas and Zoe Matthews,**
The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Honorable Mention: **Caitlyn Kelleher,**
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION (Editorial)

Weekly Class

First Place: **Seven Days, Burlington, VT**
I loved the layout and content of this guide to Burlington. This is absolutely a guide I would use and find helpful if I were in the area. LOVED the eating and drinking lists!

Second Place: **Seven Days, Burlington, VT**
Great local features and very targeted content and advertising. Content was well rounded for any age group, not just young kids.

Third Place: **Stowe Weddings,**
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Beautiful design and good mix of content. I enjoyed the "real" wedding features.

Daily Class

First Place: **The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**
Outstanding local/regional magazine!

First Place: **The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT**
Excellent dining and entertainment content. Love the players feature, great way to showcase local people within the community.

Second Place: **The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**
Great mix of content and easy read. I enjoyed reading about local people and places!

Third Place: **The Daily News, Newburyport, MA**
Great lifestyle magazine. I really enjoyed the 10 year anniversary issue. Loved the way you showcased the covers over the past 10 years.

BEST OVERALL MOBILE PRODUCT

Combined Class

First Place: **The Day, New London, CT**
Attractive, clean, easy to navigate. Great content quality for wide audience.

Second Place: **The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**
Clear and engaging - timely news and appealing to readers.

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Combined Class

First Place: **The Day, New London, CT**
The Day has a clean web design that while has ads, does not distract readers from accessing quickly the headline news, latest news and most read. National, local and opinion homepage columns guide the reader in an east-to-access way.

Second Place: **Seven Days, Burlington, VT**
Seven Days website offers a unique green wash and an elegant drop-down menu to navigate each section. Ads exist but do not overwhelm or overtake news.

BEST PODCAST

Weekly Class

First Place: **Sam Houghton,**
The Falmouth Enterprise, Falmouth, MA
The Great Shark Highway podcast provides listeners with a compelling mix of Cape Cod nautical history, along with discussions about present-day shark-related issues as the number of shark-human interactions increase off the coast of Cape Cod. With strong hosting by Sam Houghton, listeners are treated to individual shark stories, as well as everything from lessons about shark biology to interviews with some of the people presently on the front lines researching just why sharks are here, and what it means to fishermen, swimmers and tourism.

BEST PODCAST *(continued)*

Second Place: Abbi Matheson,

Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA

"A-Town: Why Didn't The Red Line Extend to Arlington?" gives listeners a sense of town history, while also musing about just what the town would be like if the Red Line had come to Arlington. The storytelling is helped along by the voices of a local historian and the present-day planning and development director, offering the audience an enjoyable listen as we travel from 1912 to present day, learning about what the town could have been - for good or for bad.

Daily Class

First Place: The Day, New London, CT

This is far and away the best, most compelling podcast submitted for consideration. It's true storytelling, drawing upon archival reporting and new interviews to tell the story of an unsolved murder in Connecticut. With high production values, strong sound design and writing. Case Unsolved is everything newspaper podcasts strive to be.

Second Place: Reinout Van Wagtenonk,

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

It is difficult to make a on-on-one interview into a compelling podcast. But host Reinout Van Wagtenonk manages to do just that in "Accents: The Voices of Our Immigrant Neighbors in the Berkshires." With careful editing and source selection, Van Wagtenonk does an excellent job introducing us to these local immigrants and sharing their fascinating stories about where they came from and what they love about their Berkshire communities.

Third Place: Matt Goisman, Colin Hass-Hill, Taryn Penna

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The Cape Cod Baseball League- the most prestigious college baseball league in the country- cried out for a weekly podcast to track the progress of the local teams. But guest voices such as a long-time host mother help make this podcast more than just a two-way conversation between knowledgeable hosts. Strong production values help make this eminently listenable for even the most casual Cape League fan.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

Combined Class

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Tremendous, exhaustive and consistent effort to inform readers about this tragedy as it unfolded. Interesting to hear the jeering as Latanowich was led in for arraignment, and good follow on the K-9. Very sad story.

Second Place: Cody Shepard,

The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

The Enterprise reporter Cody Shepard and photographer Marc Vasconcellos used social media to report on a horrific accident that killed four local students. Though they used Twitter, Facebook live and the paper's website - they reported important and timely information while being sensitive to not disclose the identity of the victims before families were notified.

Third Place: Megan James,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Great use of social media - Facebook, website and video to report on hundreds protesting gun violence.

BUSINESS INNOVATION

Combined Class

First Place: Northeast Equestrian,

Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Outstanding! This out-of-the-box thinking to reach audiences out of their footprint is exactly what newspapers need to do. Kudos!

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

The Gazette, looking at alternative methods to grow audience and revenue, successfully managed to transform older guides and appeal to more sophisticated audiences. Great work!

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Combined Class

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Newsy and column-rich business section offer. Readers important information detailed in a variety of ways. Anchor piece on Jet Blue's arrival by Lisa Eckelbecker comes with a reality check about the regional airports financial challenges.

Second Place: Tom Lynch & Mike Cote,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Strong analysis of current economic trend, and a look-ahead for New Hampshire business climate give readers information they can use. Michael Cousineau and Mike Cote offer insights and predictions and avoid the rah-rah blatant boosterism that often hinders business journalism.

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The Telegram & Gazette formula for presenting business news works. Entertaining and complete future of an expanding pie bakery by Elaine Thompson anchors an informative compelling section.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Heather Beasley-Doyle,

Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA

This journalist went beyond the labor-management dispute here to dig into records and show that \$35 million a local health-care company was supposed to provide its workers hasn't reached their paychecks. The story balances explanatory reporting and watchdog journalism—while using effective scenes and strong quotes—to put this financial story into greater context.

Second Place: Melissa Russell,

Waltham News Tribune, Waltham, MA

Russell's story brings to life what is a chronic and thorny problem for local businesses: getting a liquor license. This story—a standout among other entries on this same topic—brings this issue to life with good interviews, anecdotes and plenty of details that help readers understand the consequences for business owners and the community.

Third Place: Emily Clark,

Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

Clark takes us to the spot where environmental issues meet the edge of the fishing dock. This story clearly explains the complexities of protecting North Atlantic right whales, shows why methods used by fishermen and lobstermen threaten the whales, and pays close attention to the ideas and potential solutions all sides are pursuing.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING (continued)

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Eli Sherman,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Any community preparing to gamble millions to subsidize a sports team's stadium deserves to have its local journalists give the deal a hard look. Sherman delivers with "Keeping Pawsox: Where's the Risk?" This story provides a detailed, smart analysis of how the deal would work, questions key assumptions, and identifies who will get holding the bill if the debts aren't paid. This story combines strong explanatory reporting and watchdog journalism. Outstanding work!

Second Place: Don Seiffert,

Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

Businessmen at John Henry's level often don't get much real scrutiny — that's why many shun the kind of public-interest investment Henry made when he bought the Boston Globe. All the more reason Seiffert's close examination of Henry's tenure running the Globe is both essential and enlightening. In "Press Play," Seiffert offers an informed analysis of what's happening behind the scenes at the Globe, and how Henry's business decisions and personality shape the fate of the region's biggest news organization. The follow-up stories clearly demonstrate some of the consequences of Henry's decisions.

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

Heintz moves us beyond commodity prices and farm economics to make the loss of a local dairy farm specific, concrete and human. This story effectively relies on economic factors and price trends to teach us about the dairy business—and then zooms in close so we can also see the toll on communities and families.

Daily Class 1

First Place: Kyle Stucker,

Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH

Kyle Stucker might well see the word "fair" flash throughout his dreams for he has submitted a hefty packet of articles about the plight of the Rochester Fair and the Rochester Fairgrounds. (He submitted a similar packet in 2017.) The twisting tale of both city and fair boards, developers, water costs, safety concerns and, finally, thanks to hours and hours of volunteer work, the community did indeed have a fair in 2018. Stucker succeeds in keeping the writing lively through the machinations while repeating just enough of the history for readers keeping up or just joining in the bizarreness.

Second Place: Jennette Barnes,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

"Keep at it" could well be the mantra for Jeannette Barnes at The Standard Times as she covered an extended process of awarding wind farm contracts in Massachusetts. Slight selection, trained employees, inducements to the communities, strengths of each bidder, how it all works — there a gold mine of topics to write about, dig into and follow-up on. And, she did with consistent, solid writing with excellent explanations of complex aspects of wind farms.

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

Leading Questions is strong community project led by The Keene Sentinel to address workforce development, a growing need in the area that threatens the state economy. The story coordinated with its The Business Journal of Greater Keene, Brattleboro and Peterborough, city leadership in Keene, a survey of business needs, the Chamber of Commerce and other players in the situation. There's also loads of online content. It's a strong example of community journalism. Well done.

Daily Class 2

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This packet of articles takes a deep dive into the transformation of Worcester. As Karen Webber, executive editor, wrote in a cover letter, "We want to put history in context, touch on milestones and tale to important players." And it did — it looked at downsides of the massive transformations to the city and it was careful, as Webber said not to fall into "one-sided cheerleading stories." The writing is crisp and concise, and the stories are packed with information. It takes a well-balanced humanistic approach with real people and the hard-to-wrestle topic of change — like it or not.

Second Place: Shira Schoenberg, Shannon Young,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

This package of in-depth reporting about three Berkshire towns -- North Adams, Pittsfield and Lenox — explores how the communities have changed in the face of changing times, when unemployment pulled many residents away in hopes of finding jobs. The stories reflect solid reporting and writing about who's doing what to restore the towns while creating new opportunities. And, what's not done yet despite earlier promises. Overall, The Republican nailed it.

Third Place: Geoff Spillane, Ethan Genter,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Spillane and Genter have done a solid job of exposing how changes in H2-B, the national restriction on temporary nonagricultural international workers, has caused severe problems for local businesses owners, which rely on these workers during the active tourism season. In addition, mail delivery from Cape Cod, might have caused applications to arrive later than others, leaving Cape Cod businesses without sufficient employees. If they are so lucky as to find a local person willing to do the work, the owners face training costs, a major expense. The reporters did a great job of finding "real people" to relate their situation and in describing the complexities of the situation.

COMMENTARY

Weekly Class

First Place: Heather Beasley-Doyle,

Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA

The writer seems to put all her emotions on display in this column.

Second Place: Edward Miller,

Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

Tossing in a bit of nostalgia, the writer comments on the Parkland killings. A good read.

COMMENTARY (continued)

Daily Class

First Place: **Jack Spillane,**

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

This newspaper's readers know all too well the hazards faced by those who go to sea for a living. This column is a sensitive evocation of one crew's fate.

Second Place: **Melanie Winters,**

Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT

A journalist and mother of schoolchildren eloquently expresses the trauma people like her undergo.

Third Place: **Michael Lemanski,**

Willimantic Chronicle, Willimantic, CT

This is a well-presented lecture, in column form, on how harmless acts can have harmful results. Well done.

CONTESTS

Combined Class

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

Well-designed corner and reader-generated content make this the first place winner.

Second Place: **Record-Journal, Meriden, CT**

Beautiful cover and a robust interior. Nice section!

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

Readers (and everyone) love to take autumn photos. The Stowe Reporter's contest capitalizes on this successfully.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Julie Manganis,**

The Salem News, Salem, MA

Good court reporting explains "what." Great court reporting explains "why." When a judge explained that he spared a convicted heroin dealer from jail time because the defendant was not an addict and was merely trying to support his family, Salem News staff writer Julie Manganis knew she had a story. She followed up with articles that recounted the reaction from local pols (including a threatened impeachment effort); that investigated the dealer's prior record; and that revealed the judge's alternative explanation for sentencing decision: that a jail term might hurt the defendant's immigration status. Dogged, solid reporting, all triggered by a seasoned reporter's nose for news

Second Place: **Curt Brown,**

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

No, Curt Brown's series, "Who Belongs Behind Bars" is not an expose into the qualification of those who pour your drinks at the local pub. Rather, Brown took on a more daunting subject: How does a judge decide the right amount of bail to set for a criminal defendant? Is bail set solely to ensure a defendant's appearance in court? Or should it also be aimed at keeping alleged violent criminals and drug traffickers off the street? In a fact-filled and thoughtful two-part series, Brown quotes prosecutors, public defenders, and police as he sheds light on an issue that he says is part "political philosophy" and part "law."

Third Place: **Miranda Davis, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

In 2016, the tiny police department in Montague, Massachusetts, was required to suspend its operation of a drop box where citizens could dispose of unused prescription drugs, but it wasn't clear why - until the Greenfield Reporter started digging into the issue and learned that the police chief himself, who had custody of the drop box, was himself suffering from an opioid addiction. The paper handled the story with both rigor and compassion, not only reporting on the investigation that led to the chief's resignation, but also interviewing the chief himself, who fessed up to his addiction and said he hoped to inspire others to come forward and seek treatment.

Honorable Mention: **Jonathan Phelps,**

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

When the 72-year-old director of a dog rescue is charged with a single count of "animal cruelty" because her kennel was allegedly unsanitary, causing some canines to needlessly suffer, does the charge merit 13 stories (most on the front page), three sidebars, a dedicated reporter providing daily trial reporting and online updates, as we as an internet archive of court filings? Well, if newsworthiness is judged by page views and letters to the editor, then the MetroWest Daily News discovered that the answer is a resounding "yes." Reporter Jonathan Phelps deserves credit for chasing this story like a barnyard dog - but one can't help wondering what municipal scandals may have gone uncovered as a result. (By the way, the judge ultimately ruled that prosecutors were barking up the wrong tree: he pooh-poohed the charge, and the defendant ran free.)

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Shira Schoenberg,**

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Under-reported issue thoroughly handles. Diverse, solid interviews, well-written and compelling.

Second Place: **Kristen Young,**

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Thorough, well-written account of how career criminal worked the system, fell through the cracks, and wound up a cop killer. Very close to 1st place.

Third Place: **Dan Glaun,**

The Republican, Springfield, MA

Dogged reporting of cover-up by Springfield police of beating of resident by off-duty cops in bar dispute. Easy to follow, well-written and persistent attempt to break through code of silence.

Weekly Class

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

The article reads well. Interviews are solid, the lead-in is intriguing and the ending is strong. Subject matter - domestic abuse - is important and timely. The best of the entries.

Second Place: **John Kennedy,**

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Author's series of articles on the casino controversy involving the Wampanoag Indians and government at the local and state level presents complex legal issues in a readable manner. Coverage is balanced and thorough and interviews are solid. Reflects grasp of the law.

DIGITAL STRATEGY EXCELLENCE

Combined Class

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

The Vineyard Gazette is applauded for its digital strategy. Attracting new audiences through Instagram, events, email newsletters, contests and slideshows ensure the Vineyard Gazette is relevant to both digital and print readers. Excellent!

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Daily Class

First Place: **Don Landgren, Jr.,**

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Nicely melds the religious tradition of Holy Cross with a Crusader-based dig at political correctness.

Second Place: **Chan Lowe,**

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

The famous Rockwell Thanksgiving illustration is smoothly adapted to the controversy over a local museum's plan to sell the original. Well done.

Third Place: **Don Landgren, Jr.,**

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A "nuff-said" cartoon illustrating surrender to the snow gods. Few details, but few are needed.

EDITORIAL WRITING

Weekly Class 1

First Place: **Tom Kearney,**

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

This editorial writer pulls no punches, and the ones he lands are smashing.

Second Place: **Patrick Cronin,**

The Hampton Union, Hampton, NH

Provocative and persuasive. Nicely done.

Third Place: **Dan Mac Alpine,**

Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

I liked the fact that there were no sour grapes in their comments after the defeat of an issue the paper backed.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **Jane Seagrave,**

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

This paper's editorials have a highly civilized tone but still find their target. Well done.

Second Place: **Angelo Lynn,**

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

What I liked about these editorials was that the writer knew when to stop. Longer isn't necessarily better.

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

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Well-written and persuasive. A lot to chew on in a relatively small space.

Daily Class

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

The editorial demanding the resignation of the DA is one of the most forceful I've seen in a long time.

Second Place: **Jack Spillane,**

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

These editorials are clear, persuasive, and very nicely written.

Third Place: **Steven Pappas,**

The Times Argus, Barre-Montpelier, VT

His entries nicely range over the gamut of emotions, from rage to serenity. Well done.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Weekly Class

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

The Addison Independent of Middlebury, Vermont richly deserves first place in the weekly contest. From its skillful and decisive editorial writing to its diverse, local op-ed pieces and its many letters to the editor, the newspaper demonstrates its commitment to vigorous local debate. But perhaps most impressive of all is its commitment of space to examine issues thoroughly. This is a weekly fulsome in content and obviously proud of its local tradition. By its good work, it has earned the respect of its readers.

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

The quality of the Vineyard Gazette speaks for itself. For decades, the newspaper has reflected the ethics, values and spirit of this special place in New England. Its reliance on good neighbors who help each other makes what happens in Martha's Vineyard important in topics. Much more than the very wealthy who come in the summer, the Vineyard Gazette is a symbol of the American spirit. And this comes out in the Fourth of July editorial that painted an accurate picture of what is important to its residents. The piece, artfully dodging the question of the degradation of the White House, issues a call to protect our democracy.

Third Place: **Jeff Potter**

The Commons, Windham County, VT

The Commons of Brattleboro, VT, stands tall in its pervasive attention to lots - and I mean lots - of local writing. A Piece regarding the problems of nuclear plant waste was well done and was among several, of local op-ed pieces. Finally, reams of letters encourage readers to read, form opinions and then write in response to the letters.

Daily Class

First Place: **Jack Spillane,**

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

A strong, well-argued and nicely written editorial regarding rail service on Massachusetts' south coast anchors the page. The writer takes a complicated subject, argues it clearly and forthrightly in a style that encourages the reader to continue reading. Inside are well written pieces arguing against President Trump's offshore drilling plan, the severe challenges of helping one out of five U.S. children growing up in homes where there are addicted parents and an examination of the writer's belief that President Trump regularly lets fly with falsehoods. Then Editor Jack Spillane explains how New Bedford led the way in school integration in the 19th century. Finally, the strong local section presents two well-argued pieces favoring a new school construction and one opposing it. It is clear that Editor Jack Spillane values good writing, favors local pieces and sets high standards in the staff's work.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE *(continued)*

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The newspaper presents readers with three interesting local op-ed pieces that demonstrate the seriousness of the page. The first, by a former mayor of Worcester and a chairman of the regional Chamber of Commerce board, sets out a plan for workforce development in the region. The second examines the changes in the immigration system wrought by the Trump Administration; and the third looks at the Supreme Court justices from Reagan to Trump.

Third Place: Jack Spillane

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

The editorial examining the administration of a reform superintendent of schools gave readers plenty to think about and started the section on the right note. Thoughtful and persuasive, this was a piece that all readers should have noted. Two very good pieces - one dealing with NOAA's efforts to help fisherman and another with tribulations of living in a tough neighborhood in New Bedford - are valued articles that get to the point right away. Overall, editors are producing stimulating local pieces that are the very essence of community journalism.

EDUCATION REPORTING

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Andrew Martin,

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

What goes into the decision to cancel schools when it snows. Every parent probably read this well-written story. Good idea, well executed, lots of informative interviews.

Second Place: Colin Flanders, Michaela Halnon and Courtney Lamdin, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT

This story looks at what parents and schools are doing to protect their students in this age of school shootings. The reporter canvasses the area to get answers. Good story and excellent graphics.

Third Place: Chris Stevens,

Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

This was a routine school committee meeting to discuss an absenteeism policy, except the reporter took it a step further and parsed the policy and gave the reader plenty of details. Good job.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Elizabeth Clemente,

The Forecaster, Falmouth, ME

Well written researched series of 3 articles, each different for their four criticism areas. The stories look at the problems schools deal with in helping their students who have a variety of mental health issues. Most informative.

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

A small private college with small endowments begin to suffer, enrollment drops, one school, St Michaels, realized that population changes would affect the number of students applying to and enrolling at St Mike's, so they begin to adapt. This is a fascinating look at what they did.

Third Place: Bill Shaner,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

A new program is aimed at helping faculty and students in the public schools handle shootings in the Worcester area. This story looks at one of the drills and gives readers the pros & cons of the program. Well-written!

Daily Class 1

First Place: Lindsay Tice, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Wow! Who knew that kids, even as young as 10 or 11 are glued to their cellphones. This reporter talked to parents, students and teachers and learned excessive cellphone use, especially at school, is a real problem. Good graphics added to this well-done piece.

Second Place: Jennette Barnes,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

The reporter set out to learn how many and why teachers are resigning in the New Bedford schools. It's not pay. It's limited funding, especially for supplies and lack of mentoring and support. Good look at an issue not often covered.

Third Place: Dusty Christensen,

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

What happens to veterans back from the battlefield who want to continue their education but need some prep work before college. Not only was this a newsworthy story idea, it was well written and most informative.

Daily Class 2

First Place: Jessica Trufant,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Not every kindergartner in the area schools gets a free ride; some must pay tuition. This story details that disparity, using excellent reporting and graphs to explain why and what communities are doing to help parents with this problem.

Second Place: Michael Gagne,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

When a private school went from non-profit - to profit, the reporter set out to learn who the new owners were. The use of public records and good reporting told readers the new owners were plagued with problems.

Third Place: Scott O'Connell,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Allowing parents to choose which school their children attend leaves some school districts poorer when they lose too many students. This story not only examines the issue from multiple angles it includes a detailed graph showing the losses and gains in numbers and costs.

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Combined Class

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

Great shots of skateboarders in action... combined with fast-paced editing... make this video a winner.

Second Place: Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT

The narrator's voice makes this video stand out from the rest.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Andrew Martin, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Richly reported and well told piece about a pending invasion that could destroy 5% of Vermont's trees. I appreciate the direct and detailed telling of the threat and united options for saving ash trees.

Second Place: Dan Mac Alpine, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

A very clearly written and engaging story about ecological research with big relevance to readers: the success of introducing a predator fly to reduce risks from winter moths. I appreciate the details, especially evidence that the flies have been deployed elsewhere and the results were positive. That is not always the case when a hungry insect is introduced to a new habitat. All useful information to readers.

Third Place: Miranda Willson, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

Threats from climate change are no longer remote and readers need reliable information on what to expect locally. These stories nicely sum up how local governments and people are gearing up to both educate themselves and to try to adapt.

Weekly Class 2

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

This is a sophisticated report that details the state-level politics and economics that explain why builders are dumping sometimes contaminated soil in tiny Uxbridge. It also details how local people from a far-from affluent town, with help from a state legislator, are working to protect their communities and others from this risk. Well reported and nicely told.

Second Place: Kate Cough, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Readers need to know where their refuse ends up, including materials they believe are getting recycled. Cough does a good job both sharing unwelcome news and explaining the regional and global changes that explain it. It's a story that deepens readers understanding of a lot of important things in a tidy package.

Third Place: Geoff Currier, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

This is a great example of a narrowly focused article that delivers deep insights into the challenges of a big issue of our day. In this case it's the challenge of switching to renewable energy sources. It's a service to readers to describe the complexities involved even to convert a sailboat. And it's inspiring to learn how one person found a way with trial and error.

Daily Class 1

First Place: Jim Therrien, Bennington Banner, Bennington, VT

Good explainers on sources of and risks from PFOA chemical contamination, a topic of importance in many parts of the country (and world) right now. Good follow-ups too on debates about needed cleanups and compensations to neighbors. This is the kind of work that helps keep governments and companies' accountable once risky pollution is detected.

Second Place: Jonathan Phelps, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

It's vital that reporters find and deeply report about emerging environmental risks. Phelps delivers good reporting and clear writing here about dissatisfaction with a new composting operation on a local farm. Neighbors see a big nuisance; the farmer says it's best practice. Nice work on tracing this from a local fight to a state-level debate.

Third Place: Jennette Barnes, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Nicely crafted environmental news that readers can use. There is lots to praise in a detailed and engaging piece about practical questions that plague us all. In this case: What goes into that blue bin and what must stay out?

Daily Class 2

First Place: Michael Puffer, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Need an example of why the world needs good local journalism? Here it is. At the start, Puffer and his editors clearly notify their community and its leaders of a sizable sewage spill into a local river. He then dives into how it happened and finds intriguing evidence that it wasn't only an outside contractor's fault, as the people in charge had alleged. Then his reporting turns up information on another big spill months earlier that even the mayor did not know about. He details feeble early steps that the people in charge take to clean up the mess in a precious river. And he shows that state reporting laws aren't adequate for alerting both the public and environmental regulators about these public hazards. Before it's all done, pros are brought in to clean the river, the sewage treatment plant is under new management and state legislation is worked up to improve how governments report these errors. That's impact.

Second Place: Doug Fraser and Mary Ann Bragg, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Exhaustive dive into why right whales, which live part of the year off The Cape, are sliding toward extinction. Well-crafted graphic showing the harm done to the lineage of just one whale sharpens our understanding. So does the update that strong fishing ropes not ship strikes, which have been reduced to protect whales, now pose the biggest threat to these massive animals? Plenty here for a three-part series on a topic that local readers in a stressed coastal habitat are very likely to care about.

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

Very well-written, science-based tale about a pending southern pine beetle invasion on Cape Cod, where many a pine tree grows. The vivid details about the biology and behavior of these insects and the harm they do is fascinating from start to finish. So the information on why pine trees on the Cape might be particularly vulnerable.

EVENT SPECIAL SECTION

Combined Class

First Place: The Newport Daily News, Newport, RI

Terrific features and beautiful photos draw readers in. Fun facts, clear map, schedules for adults and kids make this a must read for event goers.

EVENT SPECIAL SECTION *(continued)*

Second Place: Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

Impressive special section - 35th anniversary celebration of the Billings Farm & Museum. The history and significance of this local treasure is evident through the advertising support of local and regional businesses and organizations. Schedule of events is clear and lively features make the farm & museum come to life.

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The special section is chock full of events, highlights and all the info needed for this inspirational event.

Honorable Mention: The Republican, Springfield, MA

EVENTS

Combined Class

First Place: Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

The Keene Sentinel deserves top honors for their choice awards. Every part of this event was top notch. Partnering with the United Way to give back to the local community, writing features on winners and strengthening relationships with local businesses.

Second Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Great way to connect with readers and businesses - and generate a significant amount of revenue!

Third Place: Record-Journal, Meriden, CT

Ingenuous! An added bonus of this successful event is how it doubles as a marketing tool for the Record-Journal to promote their ability to act as a marketing agent to local businesses.

FEATURE PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: John Atkinson, VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT
Lovely!

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Alyssa Stone,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Excellent image with dramatic lighting and composition. Well done!

Second Place: David Sokol, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA

Really cute image!

Third Place: Gordon Miller,
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Clever image!

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Timothy Johnson,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Strong surf image. Well done!

Second Place: David Sokol,
North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA
A very happy image. Well done!

Third Place: Peter Simon,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
A piece of sand art!

Daily Class 1

First Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Clever Image! As always a great eye!

Second Place: Jack Foley,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Really a cute photo of a fun event.

Third Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Peter, you have a discerning eye for a strong image. Well done!

Daily Class 2

First Place: Greg Derr,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Very strong image! Combines art with feature journalism. Intriguing! Well done.

Second Place: Ashley Green,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
This is a beautiful moment. Great lighting and a superb eye to see the image.

Third Place: Don Treeger,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Nice Image!

FEATURE VIDEO

Weekly Class

First Place: Eva Sollberger,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Gorgeous imagery. A high quality production. A+

Second Place: Vineyard Gazette,
Martha's Vineyard, MA
Nice use of historic film footage. Would love to see more videos like this.

Third Place: Jack Dodson,
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Interesting profile piece. Beautifully shot.

Honorable Mention: Megan James,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
'Witchy' friend leads to broom 'craft' Very interesting subject!

Daily Class

First Place: Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT
Great scenery and great sound make this video a winner!

Second Place: John Woike,
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Nice overhead shots of the horses... A drone was put to good use here!

Third Place: Ashley Green,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
This time lapse video was a joy to watch. Simple and effective. Nicely Done!

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Combined Class

First Place: **Rachael Thatcher,**

Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

This useful information is beautifully laid out and the writing lures the reader into the mood of romance. I like the inclusion of recipes with the high-quality photos.

Second Place: **Susie Middleton,**

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Very compelling first person story that had me wondering what would happen next. It's also an important and timely topic in the restaurant world.

Daily Class 1

First Place:

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

There's a local tie-in for this seemingly simple topic. The writer takes that common, familiar food everyone knows and shows us new things. The layout is innovative and engaging. We get more comfort food recopies which also relate - the Dutch Baby and the Roast Turkey.

Second Place: **Mary Biekart and Maria Reagan,**

The Day, New London, CT

The layout is very compelling. The photos are great and I like how this introduction to Dim Sum orients newbies but doesn't "dumb down" the topic. There's a lot of information here, but the layout keeps it from becoming overwhelming.

Third Place: **Linda Murphy, Emely Varosky, Jack Foley,**

The Herald News, Fall River, MA

This is a very fun topic and an unexpected one. It ties in local businesses and a bit of history and culinary anthropology at the same time. The dumpling article is a nice accomplishment.

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Rachael Thatcher,**

The Newport Daily News, Newport, RI

This lively article ties in a timely topic and a local expert. There is practical advice, but also a bit of whimsy. The 7 tips are a nice touch and the layout works well.

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

Excellent interview and book review article that offers multiple spin-off/related information.

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

Beautiful photos and innovative layout shows practical advice and instruction in an engaging way.

FRONT PAGE

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: **Martha's Vineyard Arts & Idea,**

Vineyard Haven, MA

While the figures of Venton's painting, in their conetic poses, take center stage on the cover, it's the designers willingness to pull back and use design to emphasize the art-not the design-that makes the layout succeed. The name plate is just big enough but more importantly the secondary type, promoting the content inside, embodies the restraint of the overall design; a light face, centered text blocks, in only one complementary color.

Second Place: **Lisa Lynn, VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT**

This one rings all the bells. Type colors that match and compliment a photo, which itself illustrates the topic with an exciting moment, all the while offering plenty of negative space for text. The attention to detail in typography comes through clearly.

Third Place: **The Martha's Vineyard Times,**

Vineyard Haven, MA

Sometimes the best design is the quietest. the design for a profile of a photographer who works "in shades of blue and gray" tells you so even before you read the lead. Even curves in the flow of the copy suggest both softness and the seashore.

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Staff,**

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Stark type and clear graphic make the case for fining out why so many inmates kill themselves in Bristol County. An original illustration immediately tells the reader that the topic is prison, and the color choices cannot despair. The simple refers at the bottom of the page refrain from competing with the centerpiece.

First Place: **Jessica Zandan,**

The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Several bold design choices elevate this page: it's a single-story cover, carried by a dramatic full-width portrait, a bilingual headline, and just enough copy to convince the reader to turn to the jump. The generous use of white space carries over to the photo refers, which stand on their own without competing with the package.

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

All of the entries showing the eclipse, this one stood out for its variety of photos. They vary in subject and size and shape, and explain the story visually. The rest of the page is equally strong, even in comparative restraint, showing its finesse in details such as the aligned headlines at mid-page and the small photo of President Trump, laid out to suggest he's pointing to the kids and looking at the eclipse from the same vantage point.

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

There's nothing wrong with body copy, a point proven here by using an eye-catching photo played well. Even better, the photo appears to have been planned with the display in mind, resulting in a design that successfully combines writing, image and design increative layout.

Daily Class 2

First Place:

The Republican, Springfield, MA

A well-selected cutout photo draws the eye to the centerpiece, with several faces prominent in the image. The headline "Let the games begin," labels the article, and placed next to it is a photo of poker chips making clear which kind of games are being written about. On top of the page the murder indictment news has a straight-forward headline and a photo, of suspect and police officer, de4monstrating its importance as news without taking away from the casino display.

FRONT PAGE *(continued)*

*Second Place: Jim Flynn,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT*

Simple and clear, this design of the two men and their messages for each other can't be ignored. The layout uses several levels to communicate its ideas, from the italics for the historical text to the quotations from the partisans. The rail on the left makes for an easy read and refrains from competing from either the centerpiece or the boating accident article.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Plenty of entry points on this front, with a descending order communicated visually through headline weight and design elements. The box of "fast facts" is a helpful touch.

Weekly Class

First Place: Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Two striking portraits set the tone for this page, each carrying a different emotion, emphasizing different colors, with subjects almost glancing at one another - helping to keep the reader's gaze on the page. A minimal use of secondary display type lets the photos stand on their own, and the body copy is set thoughtfully to create in even gray frame.

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

The vintage feel of the woodcut and gazetteer notes in the flag and the healthy respect for type convey tradition and heritage. So the striking photo of a ferry streaming through fog, running across six columns (out of seven!), demands the reader's attention: you just want to figure out where the hull disappeared to. The negative space left by the fog isn't just striking, however; the photo illustrates the challenges that the ferry authority faces.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Ann Ringwood,
Bedford Minuteman, Bedford, MA*
Emotional image!

*Second Place: David Sokol,
Reading Advocate, Reading, MA*
Peak emotions!

*Third Place: Robin Chan,
The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA*
Nice moment.

Weekly Class 2

*First Place: David Sokol,
North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA*
Excellent general news!

*Second Place: Gabrielle Mannino,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
Cute image!

*Third Place: Jennifer Osborn,
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME*
Strong meeting image!

Daily Class 1

*First Place: Tim Jean, The Eagle-Tribune, North
Andover, MA* Excellent reaction image!

*Second Place: Ben Garver,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*
Emotional Image!

*Third Place: Ben Garver,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*
Powerful Image!

Daily Class 2

*First Place: Steven Valenti,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT*
Excellent image!

*Second Place: Gary Higgins,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA*
Emotional image.

*Third Place: Steve Heaslip,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Emotion filled image!

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Specialty/Niche Publications

*First Place: Grant Welker,
Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA*
Exhaustive research paints a sharp picture of Worcester's economic/lifestyle profile in the midst of its claimed "renaissance". Profile shows a mixed verdict on whether a "renaissance" is in play.

*Second Place: Bill Shaner,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*
Disclosed a formerly secret rejection of an investment proposal to save a historic church for alternative use. Well-written and organized. Fair, balanced report, with multiple sources.

*Third Place: Robert Kiener,
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT*
Easy to read on an interesting subject: small dairy farm surviving in tough circumstances with help of robot milking machines. Offers some good statistics and comments on state of the industry.

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA
An exhaustive examination of an underground criminal enterprise that shows that, despite its pernicious presence, this crime has often been overlooked by society and the law in the past. The story is told in stark terms- how this criminal enterprise operates; how it recruits and abducts victims into its web; what is being done to rein it in; how its victims are entrapped and affected. Well-written and well-presented, with statistics, facts boxes, and brief on how to spot signs of this crime.

GENERAL NEWS STORY *(continued)*

Second Place: **James E. Kukstis,**
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

A well-detailed and convincing piece about an immigrant facing forced departure from the land he has called home for nearly 25 years, after being brought here illegally and under false pretenses. A combination of solid news reporting on Kong's case and of building a case of a man backed by his community because his unwarranted plight and his winning personality.

Third Place: **Maureen Sullivan,**
Dover-Sherborn Press, Dover, Sherborn, MA

Clever lead is the harbinger of this inviting take of a man's rescue of a bull headed to the slaughterhouse that has instead become a beloved community attraction. No bull; This is an enjoyable human interest story, well told.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **Cherise Madigan,**
The Manchester Journal, Manchester, VT

Balanced take on one man's bold erasure of a fading mural originally designed by local students. Interesting comments and arguments presented by opposing sides, and handled well in the report.

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

Story tackles an interesting angle on volunteer boards manned by mostly layman in small towns, and how they handle potential conflicts, and the thorny legal and technical issues. Variety of voices lends depth and perspective to this topic.

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

Balanced report fair to both sides in this dispute. Based on documents about the dispute released by a court. Clearly written, but routine, albeit on a fiery controversy.

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Zoe Matthews and Breanna Edelstein,**
The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

The Tragic Story of how Wendi Davidson died opened a necessary look into the NH parole board. I especially appreciated the timeline and dive into the number of inmates who return to jail so soon after their release. I would've liked to hear more from the paper about why it published chevalier's letter in full; it was a unique twist to the story.

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

Cities need to take care of their residents, and this story about the beyond- neglected bay state building shows why. Not only is it dangerous, it costs the city money in 911 calls and inspection costs. A good story that sheds light on problems many don't see.

Third Place: **Amanda Drane,**
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Behind every ICE arrest is a story, and I appreciated how this one just told the truth. Niberd Alzendi Abdalila doesn't have a particularly sympathetic story, but his struggle is universally human. We should keep telling these stories.

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Matthew Kauffman, Dave Altinari and Jon William Allsop,**
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

What a fascinating data story to find the people who're repeatedly won lotteries. Morant's story is unbelievable, but it also shows how addictive scratchers- scratchers!- can be. A great intersection of numbers and humanity.

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

A chilling story about how a man could be a killer yet have the audacity to ask police for help with his child custody issue. Proof that public records requests are necessary for justice.

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

Covering a natural disaster is second nature for journalists, yet it's the aftermath stories that is important for a community. Also appreciated the photo essays.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Weekly Class 1

First Place: **Marty Green, Joan Eliyesil and John Osborn,**
The Harvard Press, Harvard, MA

Excellent commitment to an issue of significant importance to the community. This shows the value of hyperlocal news and why it matters.

Second Place: **Wendall Waters,**
Tri-Town Transcript, Topsfield/Boxford, MA
Thorough, illuminating and full of facts.

Third Place: **Max Sullivan,**
The Hampton Union, Hampton, NH

An important issue for town and state, and good commitment for staying on it.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **Paul Heintz,**
Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Second Place: **Eli Sherman,**
Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Third Place: **Mary MacDonald,**
Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Scott Merzbach,**
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
multi-sourced, well written, nostalgic take of the end of the town meeting form of government. Octogenarian and older members commenting.

Second Place: **Damien Fisher,**
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
10 days of coverage from August to May of voter ID issue. Exhaustive examination of a important issue. Clearly written.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING *(continued)*

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

City compiling new list of tax exempt properties. How can a city manage when so much property is tax exempt? A clear examination.

Daily Class 2

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

Dogged pursuit of a state legislators relationship with a 16-year-old girl causing his resignation from the legislature.

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

Solid reporting on county officials taking luxury rooms (on county's dollar) at a Municipal Assn. meeting in Boston.

*Third Place: Daniela Altimari,
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT*

Lively piece on a streak of red in a blue state.

HEADLINE WRITING

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Lisa Lynn, VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT

Headline draws reader in to learn what is completely different. Simple, effective.

*Second Place: Janine Weisman,
Newport Mercury, Newport, RI*

Seasonal story with a twist on carving the bird. Good headline.

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Edward Miller,
Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA*
Slang works and tells all.

*Second Place: Howard Karren,
Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA*
Headline like this and you have to read the story.

*Third Place: Matthew Burdette,
The Cabinet, Milford, NH*
Inviting headline on seasonal event.

Weekly Class 2

*First Place: Randolph T. Holhut,
The Commons, Windham County, VT*
Fun hed on library trend.

Second Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
Headline invites reader: Read this!

Third Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT
A son's mental illness is also a family fight.

Daily Class 1

*First Place: Hope Hunt,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH*
There's more than coffee in this café plant nursery. Head says it all.

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

*Third Place: Bianca Pavoncello,
The New Britain Herald Press, New Britain,
CT Halloween. Big orb. Headline weighs-in.*

Daily Class 2

*First Place: Charles LeClerc,
The Republican, Springfield, MA*
The perfect headline.

*Second Place: Charles LeClerc,
The Republican, Springfield, MA*
Thank you. You've drawn the reader immediately, and the reader smiles at this clever headline.

*Third Place: Patrick Cassidy,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Halloween parade and guess who's there? Sweet.

HEALTH REPORTING

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Brittany Feldott,
The Mashpee Enterprise, Mashpee, MA*
This well-written story tackled an important issue from the perspective of both a patient and her mother, as well as caregivers, putting the anecdotal into a broader context.

*Second Place: John Voket,
The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT*
This story addressed an issue that many readers may not be familiar with - Xanax abuse by teens - providing both important context and useful information.

*Third Place: Mina Corpuz,
Nashoba Valley Voice, Dracut, MA*
This well-written piece offered a deep dive into the life of a patient waiting for a kidney transplant, illustrating the kind of day-to-day challenges that patients face and journalists often ignore.

Weekly Class 2

*First Place: Katie Jickling,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT*
This piece exhibited a great deal of compassion for a family facing tremendous challenges and showed readers the depth and scope of an important public policy problem without drowning us with statistics or policy. Most illnesses affect an entire family not just the patient, and this story did a good job of illustrating that.

*Second Place: Alicia Freese,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT*
This very thorough piece obviously highlighted an important problem in the state's prisons: prison policy was changed almost immediately and legislative action quickly followed. This story is in tradition of the best journalism: highlighting crucial issues and promoting positive change.

*Third Place: Walter Bird, Jr. and Bill Shaner,
Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA*
This story did a good job weaving together personal stories and policy issues on a topic that is relevant to all of us.

HEALTH REPORTING *(continued)*

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Andy Castillo,**

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

A well-written piece that explores the challenges faced by home care workers, including the physical difficulties of the job and, also importantly, their economic challenges. An aging population, coupled with rising costs for basic living expenses, has helped fuel a shortage of home care workers. The piece nicely details how much they are paid by agencies, and the role Medicaid plays.

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

A fine example of medical reporting that not only explores a disease, but also delves into the policy of the condition, its symptoms, treatment and prevalence. The side bar- about whether people with this blood condition can donate blood - propels the story beyond medical reporting into looking at health policy and its real world effect.

Third Place: **Liora Engel-Smith, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

One of the key questions facing health systems everywhere is how to control the costs. This piece looks at a program that comes amid a growing consensus that non-medical issues, such as people's income, education and even ability to find transportation - can sharply influence health. I liked that it included reference to health studies and a section on how much the program costs, and who is paying for it.

Honorable Mention: **Heather Bellow,**
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Honorable Mention: **Mary Markos,**
The Salem News, Salem, MA

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Shawne Wickham,**

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

This ambitious series took readers on a journey across a range of programs that have sprung up in response to the ongoing addiction crisis. The reporter spent time at a needle exchange project, a rehab home for pregnant moms, a drug court and with a choir for those in recovery and their friends. It was a nice mix of enterprise reporting, explanatory journalism and good feature writing.

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

This two-part piece looks at the growing problem of people infected not only with Lyme, but other tick-borne illnesses and the struggles they face from the conditions and in getting treatment. The second piece elevates the issue to one of national concern, raising the issue of climate change and the role it may play in tick-caused illnesses. It raises the provocative question of whether our view of pleasant outdoor activities, such as hiking or playing in the grass, must forever change.

Third Place: **Roberta Baker,**
New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

This piece clearly and compassionately explores the reasons behind hoarding and the health problems it can pose. The article also provides valuable tips, which are often overlooked in pieces like this, on how to approach loved ones that suffer from the condition and how to get help.

HISTORY REPORTING

Weekly Class 1

First Place: **Emily Clark,**

Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

Well-planned and executed series on a recreated longship's visit to Plymouth. A compelling, well-researched story.

Second Place: **Katy Ward,**
Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

Excellent writing and impressive interviews with locals involved in a 79-year-old blaze.

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

Interesting look at the expertise needed to research the origins of a historic ship.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **Chris Baer,**

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Great writing and compelling local link to the Lindbergh kidnapping. Fine graphics add to an excellent package.

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

Very nice blend of historical background to put touching Civil War letters in context.

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

Good reporting enhances this colorful look at the local angle on the 1918 pandemic. Deft comparisons between then and now.

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Scott Calzolaio,**

Milford Daily News, Milford, MA

Painstaking research, energetic storytelling and an ambitious online presentation combine for a wide-ranging and insightful examination of the roots and extent of slavery in New England. This is an important work of journalism.

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

This is a well-written report on the devastating influenza outbreak that killed more than 5,000 residents of Maine in 1918.

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

This is an engaging work of historical journalism driven by extensive research and savvy organization of the material.

Daily Class 2

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

This ambitious, clear-eyed three-part series examines the modern racial climate in the historical context of the life and times of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The stories were focused and well-written, bolstered by a strong and confident presentation. The series was vibrant and vital – historical journalism at its best.

HISTORY REPORTING *(continued)*

Second Place: Neal Simpson,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

This smart collection of stories goes to the heart of the racial and societal tensions that define Greater Boston - and the nation - in 1968. The work provides readers with a clear sense of the era. The use of the "reader roundtable" added a credible and consistent local perspective.

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This two-part series effectively and efficiently surveys the life and times of Robert F. Kennedy. The strong online presentation serves as an excellent ambassador for the brand of the Cape Cod Times.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Hannah Marshall,

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

This is an example of terrific storytelling. The writer artfully describes a dinner for 150 people on a Vermont farm, taking the reader on a lovely journey. The exceptional photography is the perfect complement.

Second Place: Sam Low, MV Art & Ideas,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

A skillfully written story relates to a fascinating tale of how Thomas Hart Benton murals ended up at a new Britain, Conn. museum. The piece is enlivened by quotes from a memoir and a book.

Third Place: Meaghan O'Neill,

Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

An engaging overview of the craft beer scene in Rhode Island with solid writing, good use of factual material and artistic presentation.

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Rebecca Humphrey,

The Landmark, Holden, MA

Fun-filled read from start to finish. Flow of the story carries readers on a wonderful journey. Augmented nicely with photographs from her trip.

Second Place: Mick Colageo,

The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA

A wrong turn leads to a great read. Happy to see the instructors, parents and students all incorporated into such a moving story. Photo package adds to the presentation.

Third Place: James Kukstis,

Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

A more in-depth look at a local success story than your normal feature piece. Enjoyed it.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Noah Asimow,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

A delightful tale told with just the right amount of detail and explanation. The result is the inspirational story of Ted Box, who built a community in the process of building a ship. Strong photography elevates the package.

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

A moving portrait of Ryan McLaren, who rebuilt his life after a devastating ski accident. The writer does a skillful job of taking the reader through McLaren's life before and after the accident as well as the medical information.

Third Place: John Flowers,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

A good read with an interesting twist. A Vermont country store is up for sale and environmentalist and Vermont resident Bill McKibben is lending a hand to find buyers. Nicely done!

Daily Class 1

First Place: Kayla Canne,

The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Melissa and Scott Hathaway's story is incredible - both diagnosed with colon cancer, six weeks apart. But rather than a story of unthinkable suffering, the writer told a story about resilience, faith, the power of family and refusal to give in. The Hathaway's are both caretaker and patient at the same time. Theirs is a remarkable fight and a formidable trial for the family, sensitively and powerfully told.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT

This compelling series brings depth of faces and voices to explore why Millennials stay in Connecticut, against the grain of data showing an exodus of young people from the state. The stories of those who stay weave a different narrative and offer a strong human insight on why some Millennials find a place for themselves there.

Third Place: Julia Bergman, The Day, New London, CT

Readers love to be taken to places they can't go themselves, and under the sea in a nuclear submarine is, for most of us, certainly one of those places. Nice story framing of the human experience of sailors prepared to spend six months in a nuclear submarine.

Daily Class 2

First Place: William Kole and Steve Senne,

The Associated Press, Boston, MA

A compelling profile of John Young and the challenges he faces as a little person and marathon runner. The fine writing and first-rate photography create a powerful package.

Second Place: Cynthia Simison,

The Republican, Springfield, MA

An excellent look at a family farm and what it takes to make it sustainable. A well-crafted piece mixing family history, anecdotes and evocative description.

Third Place: Doug Fraser,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This is a must-read piece on how flowers can counteract the effect of winter blues. It stands out for its creative approach as well as for the variety of voices and good use of explanatory material.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Weekly Class

First Place: Stephen Fay,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Stephen Fray is one funny, funny oenophile who has made a column art form as the "world's least reliable, most uninformed source of reviews of cheap wines." A toast!

HUMOR COLUMNIST *(continued)*

Second Place: Carole Vasta Folley,

The Other Paper, South Burlington, VT

I wish there was an emoji just for reading Carole Vasta Folley. She's breathless and energetic, and so funny with observations and personal foibles. More! More!

Third Place: Damaris Perez-Pizarro,

El Pueblo Latino, Springfield, MA

Damaris Perez-Pizarro shares humorous and poignant comparisons between her life in the U.S. and her native Puerto Rico. Her writing is rich, wise and surprising.

Daily Class

First Place: George Pelletier,

The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Reading humor columns. "All kidding aside: We're talking about our future" and "Stop your 'wining': a sommelier for a day" by George Pelletier is like sitting next to a witty smart-aleck who cracks non-stop hilarious asides. I raise my glass of Thunderbird to you, George.

Second Place: Saralee Perel,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Saralee Perel has the rare ability to combine the absurd with the poignant, and the resulting laughs bring release and feel-good glow.

Third Place: Steve Fagin,

The Day, New London, CT

Steve Fagin writes about hurling axes at a Lumberjack Festival. I love learning about things I would never want to do, and to make me laugh about them is a real plus!

ILLUSTRATION

Weekly Class

First Place: Paul Karasik,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

A thoroughly enjoyable, interesting and informative illustration of a busy business. Words could easily have been used to describe a day in the life of the store but the illustration takes you there. Very creative!

Second Place: Kym Balthazar,

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Third Place: Elizabeth Brooks,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Daily Class

First Place: Becca McGovern, Center for News and Design,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

This is a very strong and excellent element of the story. The photos and "police board" approach in design immediately draws in the reader. The illustration sets the mood and tone of the story in a way great writing cannot. Excellent work!

Second Place: Christopher Serra,

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Third Place: Matthew Burdette,

The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

INFOGRAPHICS

Combined Class

First Place: Becca McGovern and Zak Denis, CND,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

This is a super-informative graphic. It is full of great and useful info for runners and those watching the race. Great, easy layout. The giant map is terrific. This is a must-have for anyone interested in this event.

Second Place: Emely Varosky,

The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Third Place: Matt Hannon,

The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Daily Class 1

First Place: Jim Haddadin,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

A terrific example of solid investigative reporting that holds a public employee accountable for abusing the public trust.

Second Place: Kristen Young,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This is a superb example of investigative reporting that is sparked by a breaking news story. Kristen Young's exhaustive reporting exposes serious flaws in the Massachusetts criminal justice system.

Second Place: Jeff McMenemy,

Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH

This series of stories follows the money and comes up with important findings that point to local government's failure to monitor a major project. Excellent work.

Third Place: Michael Bonner,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

An excellent example of reporting that begins with a breaking news story—a large number of suicides in one county jail—and drills down to find out why. The hard work and digging paid off.

Daily Class 2

First Place: Josie Albertson-Grove,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

This excellent story speaks to the fact that hard work and digging deep can result in holding the powerful accountable in a way that truly benefits the public.

Second Place: Kristen Young,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

A superb example of investigative reporting that is started by a breaking news story. Kristen Young's exhaustive reporting exposes serious flaws in the mass criminal justice system.

Third Place: Dan Glaun, Scott Croteau, and

Gintautas Dumcius, The Republican, Springfield, MA

An excellent series of reports that advanced a breaking news story and resulted in important change in the way Massachusetts monitors police overtime payments.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING *(continued)*

Third Place: Brad Petrishen,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Reporter Brad Petrishen's excellent stories resulted in justice for several victims of an unscrupulous attorney. These stories served an important public purpose.

Weekly Class

First Place: Courtney Lamdin and Colin Flanders,

The Milton Independent, Milton, VT

Who says small community newspapers don't have the resources to do solid, in-depth investigative reporting? Lots of people...but Lamdin and Flanders prove them wrong. This is a superb piece of watchdog journalism that exposes wrongdoing that impacts a community. Bravo!

Second Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

An in-depth exploration of a major sector of the Vermont economy that provides the citizens of Vermont with important information. Well done.

Third Place: MacLean Gander, Shanta Lee Gander and

Jeff Potter, The Commons, Windham County, VT

This Special Focus takes a creative and comprehensive approach to an issue impacting the community it serves. It's in-depth and balanced reporting should be commended.

INVESTIGATIVE/ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Grant Welker,

Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA

An in-depth examination of a widespread and serious problem in the boardrooms and executive suites of major corporations in Worcester County. An important piece of journalism.

Second Place: Eli Sherman,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

This series of stories explores a major issue impacting Rhode Island—rising sea levels-- and focuses on the question of whether the government is doing enough to protect the people of Rhode Island. Great work.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Class

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

The stories, the photos - every bit put me right in Edgartown. Article topics seemed more like those in a special section rather than from a normal week. Photography stood up well to black & white.

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

The fact that most of the articles are written by the community wins major points! It's hard to create that buy-in. Color spots used well.

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Lovely photography and design throughout.

Daily Class

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

A wonderful section with great design and BIG photos - especially helpful to see pizzas being reviewed and elements of a tiny house - almost life-sized! Great variety of topics.

Second Place: Jessica Zandan,

The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Nicely designed fonts, great writing inside. GO page is especially save-worthy. Great to see student issues/voices.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Weekly Class

First Place: Walter Bird, Jr. and Bill Shaner,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Entry characterized by a thorough approach to profiling each of the many candidates in municipal races. Each profile tightly written while offering special insight gained through extensive local knowledge. Nicely packaged.

Second Place: Amy Saltzman,

Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA

With nine women running for City Council out of a field of 26 - the most in Cambridge's history - it called for a trend story instead of the "typical" individual profiles of the candidates. Writer did a nice job of drawing comparisons and distinctions among the field.

Daily Class

First Place: The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

When a community decides to shed its 317-year-old system of government, that calls for local newspaper to respond to that dramatic change. The News did just that with a very comprehensive, well-written package that crossed many platforms to keep readers informed and arm them with information needed to make an important decision. Nice blend of "issue" stories and candidate profiles.

Second Place: Haven Orecchio-Egresitz,

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

While most election "profile" stories focus on the candidates, Orecchio-Egresitz provided first an in-depth look at the position of the county's district attorney and really helped explain to readers (and voters) why they should care who holds that office. Well-sourced and well-written.

Third Place: Keith Eddings,

The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Eddings provided solid coverage of the mayor's race, ranging from candidate profiles to issue stories. However, his piece on campaign finance reports stood out as important resource for voters.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Phil Devitt,

The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA

The writing is arresting and atmospheric. You couldn't create a finer portrait with oil on canvas.

Second Place: Wendall Waters,

Tri-Town Transcript, Topsfield/Boxford, MA

A unique, if unorthodox, choice of subject - - but this profile truly fascinates.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE *(continued)*

Third Place: Miranda Willson,

Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

This is a beautifully written look at an individual others might have dismissed as an oddball, when he's a modern-day prophet warning of very real doom.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: James Bandler,

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

This is a delightful and deliciously irreverent profile. Love the writerly trick of using someone else entirely to introduce the subject. And the quotes - Wow!

Second Place: Kate Cough,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

In a word: delightful. It runs a tad long, but we wouldn't "trim" a thing.

Third Place: Dan Bolles,

Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Beautifully written. Skillful use of traditional voices to help the reader really get to know this man of letters.

Daily Class 1

First Place: Joann MacKenzie,

Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA

The "Cheers" references are too obvious to pass up, but he's a Yankees fan?! This profile surprises.

Second Place: Amaris Castillo,

The Sun, Lowell, MA

Rich detail takes the reader straight into this remarkable man's world. An inspiring portrait.

Third Place: Kayla Canne,

The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Masterfully reported an elegantly written. A lovely, nuanced look at an individual and a community who carry each other. Inspirational.

Daily Class 2

First Place: Doug Fraser,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This is a really long but really remarkable portrait. We love the intro, the quotes and, well, everything else about this story!

Second Place: Kim Ring,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A sentimental favorite. The writer truly does justice to a most worthy and intriguing subject.

Third Place: Bill Porter,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

You don't have to be a baseball fan to appreciate this wonderfully told tale. If you write it, Bill Porter, we will come!

MOBILE PRODUCT DESIGN

Combined Class

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

Visually appealing and user friendly. This simple design is inviting to on-the-go readers. The advertising is effectively integrated and welcoming.

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Large images that are easy to navigate through to read articles. Clickable menu conveniently lists categories.

Third Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Easy to navigate - Very similar to Mount Desert Islander.

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Combined Class

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Raw and real. The overt examples of racism were shocking, given Cape Cod's reputation for tolerance. Good on the waitress for packing up the hater's food and booting her out of the restaurant. Good to see use of art from the WALKING project on Monday's front, and the newspaper's effort to hold a roundtable is impressive. Compelling writing throughout, and although it was an exceptionally large package, it did not exhaust the reader.

Second Place: Keith Eddings, Paul Bilodeau and

Alexandra Nicolas, The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

This multimedia coverage was done exceptionally well and there was just enough of it get the message across. The combination of videos and photos told this story by themselves, and left the viewer questioning what can be done to help the residents of that building.

Third Place: Deb Cram and Kyle Stucker,

Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH

This was a great example of how a large amount of information can be presented with a combination of words, videos, photos and audio. The multimedia elements were well edited and helped tell the story they went with. The photos were outstanding, and the audio gave me great access to the reporter's journey.

Honorable Mention: Holly Pretsky, Vivian Ewing,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

This was a fun multimedia package that combined photos and a few words with audio. In the end, you had a great alternative way to tell a story that gave us some insights into everyday people through their own voices.

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Eliza Hallabek,

The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT

Strong image with Newtown upper. Right for reference.

Second Place: Robin Chan,

Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA

Boom! Nice image

Third Place: Kathy Cleveland,

The Cabinet, Milford, NH

Pure emotion. Nice image!

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO *(continued)*

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **Gabrielle Mannino,**
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Strong image! Well done!

Second Place: **Mark Alan Lovewell,**
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Strong feature!

Third Place: **Cyndi Wood,**
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Really cute feature!

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Stephanie Zollshan,**
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Excellent peak moment/action!

Second Place: **Marc Vasconcellos,**
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Important moment in rescue.

Third Place: **Mike Valeri,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Excellent peak action!

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Dave Roback,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Really cute news feature!

Second Place: **Don Treeger,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Excellent eclipse image!

Third Place: **Don Treeger,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Fun Image!

Honorable Mention: **Ashley Green,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Beautiful image!

NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Class

First Place: **Jack Dodson,**
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
An eye-opening piece. You can tell a lot of work went onto this. Very nicely done.

Second Place: **Eva Sollberger,**
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
This video captured many memorable moments of a momentous event.

Third Place: **Rich Saltzberg, Barry Stringfellow and Gabrielle Mannino,**
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Kudos to the journalists who braves the elements to make this video! Shelby Scott would be proud.

Daily Class

First Place: **Alexandra Nicolas,**
The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA
This video provides a perspective that is often overlooked by mainstream media, and shows what life is really like for residents who live there.

Second Place: **Tim Cook,**
The Day, New London, CT
An action-packed, behind the scenes look at K-9 training. This video was really fun to watch.

Third Place: **Allan Jung,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
A raw, emotional video about a sensitive topic. Kudos to the reporter for getting this family to open up about the loss of their daughter.

Third Place: **Jason Kolnos,**
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Great concept for a multimedia package.

OBITUARIES

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Dean Shalhoup,**
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Such a well-written and interesting story. A model for excellent obits.

Second Place: **Brooke Hauser,**
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Fantastically thorough and interesting. A fitting tribute.

Third Place: **Rebecca Hyman,**
Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA
Solid coverage of a very sad story that captivated the heart of a town.

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Brad Petrishen,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Fascinating read with some good story telling and great details that really give a sense of place.

Second Place: **Madeleine List,**
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Good lede, fascinating man, well told.

Third Place: **Mary Serreze,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Nice portrait of a giving and talented local resident.

Weekly Class

First Place: **Matthew Reid,**
Stoneham Sun, Stoneham, MA
writer skillfully blends a recounting of the life of Chiara White with coverage of her memorial service. Nice writing, good blend of sources. Very selective use of quotes and anecdotes used to great effect. Obituary subject herself was not necessarily on one of those "obvious" choices such as a local politician or prominent business leader-but through the story, readers came to appreciate the impact of White on the local community.

OBITUARIES *(continued)*

Second Place: Letitia Baldwin,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

The effectiveness of this obit can perhaps best be appreciated from citing a line from its text: While his distinguished journalism career is well known in Maine..... (Richard) Dudman may be better known here as an engaged citizen. The writer manages to document the many facets of Dudman through a skillful retelling of his journalism career, mixed with anecdotes/interviews about his community involvement, his love of sailing and an engaging story of how he met his wife of 69 years. A life well-lived captured by a story well-told.

Third Place: Ann Wood,

Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

The writer should be commended for getting the family to speak out about the alcoholism that contributed to the death of Wilsa Ryder, a local pediatrician. Obit captures the many accomplishments of Ryder while also tastefully portraying the pain her family experienced.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A SPECIAL SECTION

Combined Class

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

In a publication of this size and depth of content, it's easy to forget to add the drop cap, bold-face the outtakes, add the style guide for captains. Well, not so for this four-section edition. It's solid from front to back as it provides readers with a pathway through the massive amount of content.

Second Place: Milton Times, Milton, MA

What do you need to know about Milton, Mass.? It's in this special section. And, it's so easy to find exactly what you might need to know. Strong organization design with strong photos, calendar listings and varied charts raise its standing. (And, yes, be sure to read "Ducks on the Move.")

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

Abounding with moving parts, the designer has managed to keep them all in line – sailing along to create an invitation to attend this book festival. Kudos to the Maddie Frost for the graphic illustrations for the cover page.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A NICHE PRODUCT

Combined Class

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

It's obvious that the Republican knows and respects its community. This meticulous compilation of the history of the Polish heritage abounds with thoughtful design and inviting points of interest. It is a wonderful gift to its readers and bound to be a family treasure.

Second Place: The Newport Daily News, Newport, RI

From the cover the back pages, this magazine's display reflects elegance and organization. The photography is crisp and sharp. The headlines are a graceful mix of fonts and sizes. It's quite inviting to sit with a for a while.

Third Place: Mitchell Hayes,

Worcester Business Journal, Worcester, MA

Just plain fun is the best way to describe this publication – with a lot of information packed on the pages, too. These "40 Under 40"

editions are fairly standard fare, but this one breaks the same old, same old routine.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION (PRINT)

Weekly Class

First Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

The Business Journal obviously gives lots of thought to its presentation as it reflects an open and consistent design through each section, column, story package and feature section. Cover to cover it succeeds.

Second Place: Lisa Wright,

Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

With its new narrower format, the Vermont Standard builds on its long history (1852) to continue welcoming readers to its content. It has several photo packages of community activities with clearly labeled cutlines. The maintains a strong modular design throughout the publication.

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

It's the broadest of the broadsheet newspapers – a most impressive display of authority, but the Vineyard Gazette's size along alone doesn't gain it kudos. There are lots and lots of moving parts in the Gazette, and the designer(s) have done a deft job of herding them into place in such a way as to keep readers engaged. Of special note is the "A Book in Every Port" section.

Daily Class

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Like its cover emblem in the masthead, The Berkshire Eagle soars. Its photos catch your eye. It has strong headlines with appropriate size and weight. The spacing is consistent. Overall, the design is fluid and inviting. There's no sign of forcing content to "fit" the page. Every page reflects a commitment to strong, elegant design. Great job throughout but especially on the "Sick Bridges" package.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

The Sunday Republican just really wants to invite its readers into the content of its newspaper. The design says, "Come read me. Step inside. Read some more." The weight of headlines, photos, story lengths, displays are spot on throughout.

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Ann Ringwood,

Chelmsford Independent, Chelmsford, MA

Excellent personality moment!

Second Place: David Sokol,

Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

Great reaction image!

Third Place: David Sokol,

Georgetown Record, Georgetown, MA

Lovely reaction moment!

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Albert Fischer,

Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Lovely personality image!

PERSONALITY PHOTO *(continued)*

Second Place: Paul Rogers/Stowe Magazine,
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
Excellent personality photo.

Third Place: W. Marc Bernsau,
Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
This is nothing short of a piece of photographic art! Well done!

Daily Class 1

First Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
"How much is that doggie in the window?" Lovely!

Second Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Remarkable image!

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

Daily Class 2

First Place: Allan Jung,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Excellent image filled with emotion!

Second Place: Don Treeger,
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Excellent personality image!

Third Place: Christine Peterson,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Collective personality image. Well done!

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Combined Class

First Place: Marc Vasconcellos, **The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**
Creative image!

Second Place: Stephanie Zollshan,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Excellent illustration!

Third Place: Don Himsel,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Timely illustration!

PHOTO SERIES

Specialty

First Place: Paul Rogers,
Stowe Magazine, Stowe, VT
Nice set of images to tell the tale!

Second Place: Glenn Callahan,
Stowe Magazine, Stowe, VT
Nice set of images on dairy robotics.

Third Place: W. Marc Bernsau,
Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
Well done!

Weekly Class

First Place: Alyssa Stone,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA
Great images of a harsh storm. Well done!

Second Place: David Sokol,
Tri-Town Transcript, Topsfield/Boxford, MA
Lovely coverage of an emotional event.

Third Place: Robin Chan,
Weymouth News, Weymouth, MA
Well done Robin!

Daily Class

First Place: Marc Vasconcellos,
The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Excellent coverage of this tragedy! From start to finish a stellar set of images covering all aspects of the story. Well done!

Second Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Sensitive coverage of a tender event.

Third Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Well done Peter!

PHOTO STORY

Weekly Class

First Place: Christine Peterson/Worcester Living,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Excellent set of images!

Second Place: Jeanna Shepard,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Lovely group of images!

Third Place: Ann Ringwood,
Concord Journal, Concord, MA
Complete coverage of a dreadful subject.

Daily Class

First Place: Peter Pereira,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Strong set of images!

Second Place: Kristopher Radder,
Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT
Excellent set of falconry images.

Third Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Excellent reenactment images.

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Specialty

First Place: Paul Rogers,
Stowe Magazine, Stowe, VT
Remarkable Aurora image in the Notch!

PICTORIAL PHOTO *(continued)*

*Second Place: Keith Edmunds,
VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT*
Lovely landscape!

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Alyssa Stone,
Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA*
Strong image and good anticipation for shooting location.

*Second Place: David Sokol,
Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA*
Beautiful image!

*Third Place: David Sokol,
Swampscott Reporter, Swampscott, MA*
Strong fireworks image!

Weekly Class 2

*First Place: Jeanna Shepard,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
Lovely image with perfect composition!

*Second Place: David Sokol,
North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA*
Lovely image!

*Third Place: Stephen Rappaport,
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME*
Beautiful!

Daily Class 1

*First Place: Ken McGagh,
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA*
A beautiful disaster image - Nice work!

*Second Place: Holly Pelczynski,
Bennington Banner, Bennington, VT*
A mighty fine duck image!

*Third Place: Ben Garver,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*
Lovely image!

Daily Class 2

*First Place: Greg Derr,
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA*
STORM! Excellent image!

*Second Place: Greg Saulman,
The Republican, Springfield, MA*
Beautiful image with decorations and moon!

*Third Place: Merrily Cassidy,
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA*
Stark lonely image!

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Weekly Cass

*First Place: John Walters,
Seven Days, Burlington, VT*
In both columns, "Into the Arena" and "Tradin' Paint", John Walters delves into political plays and backroom deals, taking the reader into the experience. Quotes from various politicians and players, humorous asides, and sensory details unfurl politics in action. John Walters takes political junkies into the middle of the action.

*Second Place: Angelo Lynn,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT*
Angelo Lyman in his two columns, Gun Control: It's Power Politics more than reason, that wins and Another Reckless plan by Gov. Scott: a disappointing characteristic of his leadership" pierces through the much to penetrate the real issues at hand.

Daily Class

*First Place: Chan Lowe,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*
Chan Lowe's column "What Women Lack" is illuminating, in that women lack "a biologically hard wired need to be the victor in human interactions", highlighting the female gift for consensus, compromise and empathy. When he writes about the "Imaginary America of yesteryear", he dismisses fanciful sentimentality as claptrap. Chan Lowe moves his readers forward with clarity and credibility.

*Second Place: Nick Kotsopoulos,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA*
Nick Kotsopoulos dismantles the perception of Worcester as a crime-ridden city, fact by fact, in "When reality, perception collide on crime." He takes a controversial figure and lays out the complications of politics and personality in Gaffney's time on Council? It's complicated." Nick Kotsopoulos is not content to write the easy column, he is public service personified.

*Third Place: Wayne King,
IndepthNH.org, New Hampshire*
Wayne D. King exalts national dialogue in "Democracy Should be a Messy Business" but that solutions are found in differing viewpoints given by people who respect each other. In "Looking for Hope: You'll find it at the dump on Buffalo Road in Rumney" King is engaging about history, politics and our unifying bond as everyday people. Few can turn political musings into poetic prose like Wayne D. King!

PORTRAIT PHOTO

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Robin Chan,
The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA*
Lovely portrait!

*Second Place: David Sokol,
Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA*
Nice light!

*Third Place: Ann Ringwood,
Concord Journal, Concord, MA*
Beautiful portrait

PORTRAIT PHOTO (continued)

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **David Sokol,**
North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA
Amazing portrait!

Second Place: **Hugh Bowden,**
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Strong image!

Third Place: **Glenn Russell,**
Seven Days, Burlington, VT
Nice image!

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Gillian Jones,**
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA
Cute image!

Second Place: **Jerrey Roberts,**
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Strong portrait!

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

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Rick Cinclair,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Excellent survivor portrait!

Second Place: **Christine Peterson,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Strong portrait!

Third Place: **Merrily Cassidy,**
Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Nice portrait!

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Daily Class 1

First Place: **The Herald News, Fall River, MA**
An informative, sensitive series exploring and explaining Fall River's racial and ethnic diversity. A lot to read and different writers, but the narrative is consistent and the commitment of the newspaper to telling this story is very evident. The graphics and other art are a major plus in telling and important story.

Second Place: **Amaris Castillo,**
The Sun, Lowell, MA
A clear, sensitive and often compelling series of stories that maintain public attention on the ongoing plight of people displaced by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Definite news value and timeliness since the temporary shelter assistance program, a lifeline to many evacuees, nears shutdown. (The Cambridge house aid should have been brought forward.) Good photographs of the displaced families.

Third Place: **Aimee Chiavaroli,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Tie: Well written and illustrated story about a program with a direct impact on a largely non-English speaking ethnic minority.

Third Place: **Curt Brown,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Tie: An important, timely subject effectively presented and significantly underscored by photos and factual graphics.

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Mary Whitfill,**
The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
An informative, clear and easy to follow narrative that exhibits enterprising journalism and the ability to sharply focus on an easily overlooked threat to a relatively small ethnic community that is on the verge of losing its stability and character due to changing land use. Effective use of background information and relevant quotes from the affected residents. Excellent presentation that indicates importance of the story and features attractive photography and informative pullout summaries to underscore its message.

Second Place: **Geoff Spillane, Ron Schloerb, Steve Heaslip, Kathi Scrizzi-Driscoll, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Extensive coverage that that underscores that even in what to some appears to be a highly cherished and idyllic setting there are still blemishes in the treatment of African Americans. There is a lot to read and hopefully the series has been followed and has had an impact on Times readers. Writing is clear and the narrative flows generally but tends to get repetitive and could benefit from a bit of editing. Excellent presentation and use of photos, sidebars and info boxes.

Third Place: **Elizabeth Roman, Shannon Young,**
The Republican, Springfield, MA
Thoughtful and timely series that starts with a gathering and then introduces more focused insights into the struggles of the Puerto Rican evacuees, revisiting this subject over the course of several months. A clear, flowing people-oriented narrative that effectively blends various human and institutional issues. Enhanced by relevant photos and an online video.

Weekly Class

First Place: **Emily Gowdey-Backus,**
Providence Business News, Providence, RI
A thoughtful, well-written narrative spotlighting the profound challenges faced by Rhode Island's Native American population. Length is justified by the need to draw attention to various aspects of this subject which are underscored by a skillful blending of human, business and statistical elements as well as strong art.

Second Place: **Julie Cohen,**
Newton Tab, Newton, MA
A concise well-focused on how racism impacts a local merchant. Timely, clear and informative. Nice photographs.

Third Place: **Miranda Willson,**
Medford Transcript, Medford, MA
A sensitive, balanced discussion about a public mural that has provoked local concerns about its racial content and has instigated a local discussion about historical perspectives, current local attitudes and even bureaucratic hurdles.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Weekly Class

First Place: John Flowers,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Mr. Flowers skillfully uses the case of this Cornwall community establishments to show the all-too-common plight of churches throughout New England. His account itemizes the choices ahead for many congregations as the area faces demographic and cultural change.

Second Place: Abbi Matheson,

Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA

This highly detailed look at the inner social and legal turmoil of a local Greek Orthodox congregation shows a tale of distrust, miscommunication, and potential abuse among clergy and laity. Ms. Matheson's penchant for describing the carnage makes this a worthwhile read.

Daily Class

First Place: Mark Sullivan,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

One wonders what other slights of hand the Catholic Church has up its hand, thanks to this wonderful documentation by Sullivan of the institution's (and its enablers) ham-fisted efforts to reap the benefits of its overly enthusiastic and ill-planned halcyon days. Kudos to Sullivan for watchdog service to the community.

Second Place: Michael Bonner,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

The notion that a newspaper could be considered apart from its community falls flat in this institutional attempt to save a community's heritage and soulful meaning. The abstract and concrete aspects of religious decline meet head-on on this wonderfully told story. May the bells continue to ring for New Bedford!

Third Place: Erica Moser, The Day, New London, CT

Moser thoroughly conveys the essential conflict each church faces: Without the misery of others the church's mission remains unfilled. She also makes Altaf and bin Rehman likeable and empathetic characters caught amidst the misanthropic machinations of the Trump administration.

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Weekly Class

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

When the local chief of police curtailed conversations with Stowe Reporter over editorial concerns, the newspaper fought back. In a series of articles, editorials and op/eds, the Stowe Reporter explained the importance of printing police logs - the point of contention with the chief - and how frequent communication with the police department is in the public's interest. Rather than negotiating behind the scenes or simply accepting the chief's decision to limit communication with its newsroom, the Stowe Reporter instead informed its readers of the information at state in why it was worth the fight.

Second Place: Pat Desmond,

Milton Times, Milton, MA

The Milton Times didn't simply report on Open Meeting Law violations. It filed its own complaint against the town in response.

This effort not only highlighted the prevalence of secret email conversations within a town committee, but also helped provide the content of those conversations to the public and encourage much-needed transparency in the future.

Daily Class

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

To celebrate Sunshine week, the Telegram coordinated a multi-newsroom effort to highlight the importance of public records and the lack of transparency within Massachusetts government. A series of op/eds and editorials advocated for freedom of information and provided readers with resources they need to be politically engaged citizens, but the Telegram served perhaps an even greater public interest by reporting on how many college campuses are withholding crime logs in violation of federal and state law. This reporting led to many of those campuses revisiting their policies and re-training their staff to comply with the laws - and better serve their students and communities.

Second Place: Tom Relihan,

The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Tom Relihan's reporting on the tracking of sexual harassment complaints at Bridgewater State University is an excellent example of impact journalism. By exposing the lack of data being released by the university in comparison to other more transparent schools - and by explaining to readers why this information is needed - the reporting compelled the university to reconsider its policies. The transparency the university once claimed was "unfeasible" is now a reality because of the work of The Enterprise.

Third Place: Jim Haddadin,

The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Jim Haddadin and the MetroWest Daily News spent more than a year investigating the questionable practices of an attorney simultaneously working full time for the local police department and representing private clients. During this time, the paper faced legal threats, public record battles and the daunting task of reviewing tens of thousands of judicial documents. The result is a detailed account of how the attorney is working on the public's time while also pursuing private business opportunities.

Third Place: Caitlin Andrews,

Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

After a police pursuit led to a fatal car crash, many questions remained about the decisions of law enforcement and the events leading up to the accident. Caitlyn Andrews and the Monitor answered many of those questions by obtaining audio tapes, police reports and court records to create a narrative of what happened and why. Without this dogged reporting, community members would likely be left in the dark about the decisions all parties made and why no one has been held accountable.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Combined Class

First Place: Doug Fraser,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Climate change is one of the most critical, yet complicated issues we get to address as science journalists. Covering the subject in a way that is approachable and connected to the lives of our readers is a significant challenge. Doug Fraser's piece succeeds in explaining the important distinction between what effects we can and cannot attribute to climate change, and how some changes like increased tidal surge can cause the damage wrought by the storm.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING *(continued)*

Second Place: Hannah LaClaire,

The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Hannah LaClaire's profile of a teenage scientist is a great example of how science journalism can serve to both educate and inspire the audience. The fun, light tone and inviting opening make the story approachable which blends well with the more technical details that give the young scientist's story the right balance of significance and aspiration that help readers connect with her mission.

Third Place: Susan Spencer,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

In the touching feature about the quest to understand a rare disease, Susan Spencer does an admirable job of weaving together the painful personal story of a family dealing with the challenges facing a afflicted child with the hopeful tale of a driven and caring doctor.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Daily Class 1

First Place: Paul Collins,

The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Paul Collins captures the life and death of Delores O'Riordan, lead singer of the Cranberries, ("A fierce and fiery Irish voice has been stilled") with depth, insight and passion. In his other column, "West Virginia's first lady of country music paints pictures of the mind", he singles out and defines the rarity within singer/musician Kathy Mattea. Collins paints his profiles with emotional details into an artist's creative should, and that is not easy to do.

Second Place: Clarence Fanto,

The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

From Clarence Fanto, consumers get a much needed heads up on the process and pain involved in "Renewing your license? Well, you're in good standing with others." In another column, facts about crushing climate changes are detailed in "Apocalypse Soon? To a degree, maybe." Fanto delivers well on what engages a reader: a topical subject, and easy-to-understand writing style, and eye-opening facts.

Third Place: David Collins,

The Day, New London, CT

David Collins does a masterful job of covering how an endowment meant for a historic home in Stonington is spent elsewhere by Connecticut Landmarks. "A neglected house in Stonington"). Collins shares a chronology, research, and facts in an engaging storytelling style.

Daily Class 2

First Place: Tracey O'Shaughnessy,

Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Tracey O'Shaughnessy distills the personalness of calamities in a visceral way in "what would you grab if a disaster was on the way?" in her column, "Our hinge moments can define or derail us" she shares the marks of both, growing up with a mother who took failed risks to find herself. Tracey O'Shaughnessy explores reflections and moments often missed by many and gives them magnitude.

Second Place: Clive McFarlane,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Clive McFarlane gives the reader a front row seat to unfamiliar scenes and situations. Whether it's the unique, cultural support

given to kids by African-American barbers in "Lessons on life and a haircut" or the up-close pain of a teen grieving the loss of a good and innocent friend to a random shooting, McFarlane adds empathy by taking us there.

Third Place: Jon Lender,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

John Lender explains the Goliath-sized battle and bureaucracy of an eminent domain case, and humanizes the pain and process endured by Susette Kelo and her eventual triumph in "Little Old Lady Wins." In his column, "\$480k for Art at UConn" Lender examines law, politics and public aesthetics. John Lender makes the complex easy to understand with insightful information.

Weekly Class

First Place: Angelo Lynn,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Angelo Lynn is convincing with his straight talk and practical help in "360,000 reasons high school grads need higher education." In his column, "Pennywise, pound-foolish" he illustrates the tribulations of small businesses struggling to operate when nearby bridge renovations and bad DOT planning cuts off customers. An editorial is powerful under his pen with this clear reporting and call to action.

Second Place: Marvin Ott,

The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

In "American alone," Marvin Ott makes a clear case of the damage done during Trump's trip to Asia: a power shift to China, and increased isolation for the U.S. In his column, "A strategic future takes shape", Ott takes the reader through the progress and results in Iraq, and sums up the desperate situation in Syria. Ott writes with cohesion and clarity on international affairs.

Third Place: Dan Mac Alpine,

Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

Dan Mac Alpine voices the despair felt widely at relentless mass shootings ("An empty clip for the latest mass shootings") when he repeats "I am out of ammunition," yet he inserts hopeful and exemplary stats of low gun death rates in various states, showing that anti-gun violence advocates still have plenty of fire power. In his column "When weeping is not enough" Mac Alpine calls for unity, tolerance, and accountability and ends on the surprising and factual note that Robert E. Lee publicly took communication with a former slave shortly after surrender. His is a guiding voice in what may define our country today.

SLIDE SHOW

Combined Class

First Place: Jason Kolnos,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Specialty/Niche

First Place: Mary Lhowe,

Providence Business News, Providence, RI

The team at PBN must have exhausted their stable of contacts, culled countless databases, and scoured tons of resource material to build this exceptional feature. Every RI business owner and executive should read this piece to get a comprehensive, ultimately informative, and easily digestible snapshot on the challenges facing state immigrants - who appear to represent the lifeblood of the state's service industries and manufacturing workforce.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY *(continued)*

Second Place: Chris Goudreau,

Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

For every person who has ever gone out to a local music show, Goudreau presents a very readable picture of the way the #metoo movement is slowly advancing among the ranks of local musicians and those affiliated with the music entertainment industry and related venues in the Pioneer Valley. Readers should appreciate the way, in measured segments, the writer focused a spotlight on various elements related to the issue of sexual assault and harassment in the regional music community, weaving in often hard to read but affecting personal anecdotes and survivor stories.

Third Place: Bill Shaner,

Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Shaner clearly and effectively developed relationships with the subjects of this feature creating well crafted narrative that helps move the story along while effectively educating readers and the public about the little discussed issue that has nonetheless victimized countless gay youths and young adults. The writer examines gay conversion therapy from a victim's perspective with a combination of balance and sensitivity, while introducing the prospect of political and regulatory ramifications that could result from this ongoing practice in Mass.

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Caleigh Cross, Madeline Hughes, Kayla Collier,

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The Stowe Reporter appears blessed with a team of writers who deeply engage in social issue reporting - with multiple worthy entries this year. But this piece rose to the top among all submissions thanks to its crisp writing style, wide engagement of sources, and its success at conveying the challenges facing women from Vermont's town halls to its statehouse and the nation's capital, who have sought and achieved leadership roles but continue to face hurdles in these still male dominated halls of government.

Second Place: Holly Camero,

The Beacon-Villager, Maynard, MA

Tie: A gripping collection of stories and stats that provide an outstanding report on how immigrants and refugees feel and deal with the sometimes harsh attitudes and underlying prejudices in the communities they call home in greater Concord.

Second Place: Melissa Russell,

Waltham News Tribune, Waltham, MA

Tie: Not only a compelling and well scripted feature - but innovative in respect to the creative and educational way it 'digs' into and reports on this unique but important subject. This story focuses astutely on a concern that could affect any community in New England and beyond.

Third Place: Michael Torelli,

The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT

Among submissions related to the opioid epidemic gripping Connecticut and New England, this story rose to the top presenting good and sensitive balance between the personal glimpses into the lives of its subjects, and the necessary clinical details required to help readers better understand the issue in their own community.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: David Harry,

The Forecaster, Falmouth, ME

A relatively short but extremely potent look into issues and attitudes impacting homeless populations, that could reflect the challenges of hundreds of towns and cities across New England. An inspiring take through the eyes of other affected residents, those who serve this population, and the marginalized homeless - and/or those with mental health issues - who call Portland home.

Second Place: John Flowers,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Thorough, compelling reporting on a seemingly small subject, with major implications to the community and residents affected. This reporter did excellent work connecting with those involved, and presenting their concerns in an extremely balanced, well-written piece.

Daily Class 1

First Place: George Rhodes,

The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Powerful account of what the region commits to battling/caring for the continued need for mental health services.

Second Place: Aimee Chiavaroli,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Tie: Two issues- needed care of elderly & forgotten foster care children - that shows papers commitment to our most needy.

Third Place: (three-way tie)

Kyle Stucker,

Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH

Third Place: Rebecca Hyman,

Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA

Third Place: Kevin O'Connor,

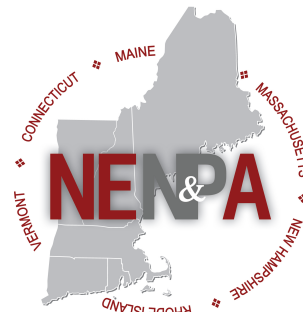
The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Daily Class 2

First Place: Susan Spencer,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Tie: With data and personal accounts the series shows the need for increased attention by officials and the public to the problem. The Worcester Telegram provides powerful focus.



SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY *(continued)*

First Place: Neal Simpson,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Tie: With data & personal accounts the series shows the need for increased attention by officials and public to the problem.

Second Place: Mark Sullivan,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The opioid crisis focused on one major local trading site.

Third Place: Geoff Spillane, Kathi Scrizzi-Driscoll,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

50 Years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr, the times focused on how racial inequality has changed - and NOT changed - in its region.

SPECIAL SECTION OR SUPPLEMENT

Weekly Class

First Place: The Falmouth Enterprise, Falmouth, MA

This is an easy-to-read, well designed special section showcasing the local choice awards for the Upper Cape. The writing is clear, informative and easy to digest. There are numerous categories and they are laid out in a clear, logical format that makes it a joy for readers to follow. This entry is easily tops in the category.

Second Place: Kari Curtis and Chris Izzo,

The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

The wide range of stories in this special section makes this very appealing to read. The writers offer helpful tips, presented in a style that is easy for anyone to follow. This goes far beyond the typical scope usually found in home and garden supplements.

Third Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

This is more than just a listing of the companies that are considered to be the best places to work. Also included are stories about what makes these companies so desirable, along with very nice graphic to illustrate perks that workers enjoy.

Daily Class

First Place: Jennifer Driscoll,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

What a great idea for a special section! This is full of wonderful information about places where people can volunteer their time. The stories tell readers what these groups do, what they need and why people help there. The cover photo is perfect! Congratulations on a great job that serves the readers in the community!

Second Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

"Making the Grade" gets an A for providing a wide range of stories that parents need to read. This section rises above the typical education section, taking a serious look at some of the very important issues facing students today.

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

This is a finely written and graphically appealing special section that offers many easy-to-follow tips. The week-by-week gardening tips story is especially helpful to all gardeners. This section is a joy to read!

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Daily Class 1

First Place:: The Salem News, Salem, MA

Wow! Love the concept of choosing the top team in each sport in each school's history. It had to be a big hit while sparking fervid debate and discussion. Exhaustive research and well organized.

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

Another great idea! Top 50 of a sports season including athletes and teams of the year was surely appreciated by readers and, again, sparked debate. Love that Unified Sports was included.

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

Everyone puts out a football preview but what made this one special was the completeness of the previews accompanied by an outstanding graphics package for each. Could hear the pads pop.

Honorable Mention: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Another that was above being just another football preview. Too good not to recognize!

Daily Class 2

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Two full pages of well written staff stories on the Falmouth Road Race as well as a photo page capturing the event's sidelights.

Second Place: Dave Nordman,

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

More of a game program for fans, but a very complete one. Serves it's purpose extremely well.

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A complete game program for fans. Serves it's purpose extremely well.

Weekly Class

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

What separated "RIDE" from the other entries was the original in-depth reporting. The introduction by Tom Kearney set the tone and it remained strong throughout. A piece on what the trail system and the sport means to the Stowe community was an especially good addition. Every article stuck to the theme, yet was different, giving a comprehensive picture.

Second Place: Rich Maclone,

The Mashpee Enterprise, Mashpee, MA

Well organized. Good use of photos.

Third Place: David Wolcott,

Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

Some strong writing helps give a complete picture of a championship season.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly Class

First Place: Karl Lindholm,

Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Lindholm's chatty style draws the reader into his column and he keeps you there through deft story telling, excellent detail and a personal touch.

Second Place: Christopher Hurley,

Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

Christopher Hurley is a fine writer.

SPORTS COLUMNIST *(continued)*

*Third Place: Joe McConnell,
Saugus Advertiser, Saugus, MA*
The cigarette column is interesting.

Daily Class

*First Place: Tom King,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH*
Good piece on the ramifications of legalized sports gambling and the long-term excellence of the Patriots- how the players change, but the behind-the-scenes influences bring amazing continuity.

*Second Place: Greg Sullivan,
The Herald News, Fall River, MA*
Sullivan's understated style works well in exploring anger and fairness when a boy scored the winning goal in a field hockey playoff game. And, he has fun with his former college professor who was among the greatest Celtics fans ever.

*Third Place: Mike Walsh,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*
Walsh writes a ski column and he just rips it, shreds it. It's fun! He tracks down a local kid who's making it big on the snowboard circuit, and somehow parlays boyhood skiing with his brothers into an appreciation of Warren Miller.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Cassius Shuman,
The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI*
Ten paragraphs full of information, color and feeling. A world pretty much unknown to me, and I wanted to be a part of it. Flat-out the best written piece.

*Second Place: Trevor Hass,
Duxbury Clipper, Duxbury, MA*
This is how to write a personality profile. Choose a worthy topic and let him make his own case without trying, by just being himself.

*Third Place: Andrew Martin & Tommy Gardner,
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT*
I can only imagine an AD in California or Florida reading this and saying, "Thank god that's not me". Fascinating topic, well-researched and well-presented.

Weekly Class 2

*First Place: Noah Asimow, Landry Harlan,
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA*
This made me wish I had been there. What more is there to say?

*Second Place: Geoff Currier,
The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA*
A nicely little story expertly told. Just the right detail (E.L. the threatening yacht).

*Third Place: Andy Kirkaldy,
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT*
We all hear about ACL recovery and take it for granted. Andy Kirkaldy introduces us to Andi Boe and why we shouldn't.

Daily Class 1

*First Place: Brendan Kurie,
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA*
A long story in part, but it still manages to keep reader until the end. The lyrics usage- while the words fit the story, it would have been nice if the reason behind using them came a bit earlier to show why it mattered to Correia.

*Second Place: Quincy Whitney,
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH*
A nice history piece about an obscure sport, but relevant by tying the background to the future of the sport in Nashua.

Third Place: Steve Fagin, The Day, New London, CT
A history piece that is tied to present-day events. Taking a run with Burfoot was a great idea.

Daily Class 2

*First Place: William Kole & Steve Senne,
The Associated Press, Boston, MA*
Tight writing throughout with good anecdotes sprinkled through. A good smattering of numbers but the best one - 4 feet, 4 inches - is saved until the seventh paragraph. It's impossible to read the headline and not keep reading.

*Second Place: Joe Palladino,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT*
A unique topic. The author does a good job chronicling the journey the glove made before arriving at the Piersall home.

*Third Place: Dom Amore,
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT*
Good overview of the complex path that precluded Hurley's hiring, including both of the highs and lows of his journey.

SPORTS PHOTO

Specialty

*First Place: Brooks Curran,
VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT*
Excellent image!

*Second Place: Brooks Curran,
VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT*
Strong image

*Third Place: Cody Downard,
VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury,
VT* Good image!

Weekly Class 1

*First Place: Ann Ringwood,
Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA*
Peak football action!

*Second Place: Robin Chan,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA*
Tag! You are Out!

Third Place: Art Illman, Hopkinton Crier, Hopkinton, MA
We Win!

SPORTS PHOTO (continued)

Weekly Class 2

First Place: **Trent Campbell,**
Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Peak action!

Second Place: **Maria Thibodeau,**
Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Nice image!

Third Place: **Mike Mandell,**
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Strong image!

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Mike Valeri,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Excellent action!

Second Place: **Tom King,**
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
Strong peak action!

Third Place: **Mike Valeri,**
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Excellent reaction image!

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Steve Lanava,**
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Excellent action and expression.

Second Place: **Jim Shannon,**
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Jump Ball!

Third Place: **Bill Shettle,**
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Strong action!

SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Class

First Place: **Christopher Hurley,**
Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA
Excellent super bowl championship coverage. Well written, fine mix of photos, good insights, good display.

Second Place: **Joe McConnell,**
Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA
Keepsake little league All-Star section- photo quote from every player. Good rugby story.

Third Place: **Mike Mandell,**
The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Good use of photos, good topics.

Daily Class

First Place: **The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**
Outstanding coverage of Thanksgiving Football rivalries. Excellent photos used well; first-rate reporting; good angles; creative headlines. Outstanding all around.

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

Excellent coverage of Patriots Super Bowl loss to Eagles. Good angles; features; inside looks; superb use of photos.

Third Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
Fine package of Thanksgiving football games, highlighted by a focus on two outstanding players, with a listing of who else deserved star status. Fine use of photos; strong writing and headlines.

SPORTS STORY

Daily Class 1

First Place: **Tommy Cassell,**
The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Tremendous pacing to a story told with solid voice, made it an easy read ripe with details that put the reader in the moment. Heartfelt - never oversold or undertold.

Second Place: **Kyle Grabowski,**
Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Exhaustive profile of an under-the-radar athlete in an emerging sport - rich with detail. Immersive read.

Third Place: **Carmine Frongillo, The Sun, Lowell, MA**
Great find for a story, and openness from subjects was apparent.

Daily Class 2

First Place: **Lori Riley,**
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Lori takes on a sensitive topic with strong, conscious writing/reporting - and was extremely balanced. She laid it all out for the reader to absorb.

Second Place: **Lori Riley,**
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
A great read on a topic that started with prior reporting revealing wrongdoing. The follow-up piece was thorough and balanced.

Third Place: **Dom Amore,**
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Strong investigation piece that was detailed, straight-forward and easy to digest/understand.

Weekly Class

First Place: **Andrew Martin,**
The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT
This was a nice quick turn around with a complete story about a state championship game and season by the Stowe High School girls hockey team. Nice way to play off that there were no seniors on the team, which went 16-2-2 with mostly freshmen and sophomores. Well written. Good quotes. Nice sidebar box about Barry Melrose and shout out on ESPN SportsCenter.

Second Place: **Christopher McDaniel,**
Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA
Wonderful story about Andrew Lawson – a community treasure. Everybody -- including opposing teams -- loved Andrew. Sad his life was cut short by cancer.

SPORTS STORY *(continued)*

*Third Place: Christopher Hurley,
Medford Transcript, Medford, MA*

Good active quotes. Exciting game story.. "First no-hitter"

*Honorable Mention: Christopher McDaniel,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA*

Important topic with the decline of tackle football and concussions with a half dozen photos from a game.

SPORTS VIDEO

Combined Class

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

What a great idea for a video! Very creative, and a pleasure to watch.

*Second Place: John Woike,
The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT*

Great action shots of waterskiing. Very nicely done.

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

Another great episode of Stuck In Vermont! A very polished and professional production.

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Daily Class 1

*First Place: Ben Garver,
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA*

Excellent spot news.

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

Excellent image!

*Third Place: Desi Smith,
Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA*

Strong news image.

Daily Class 2

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

Well thought out moment at scene!

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

Water where it shouldn't be.

*Third Place: Jim Shannon,
Republican-American, Waterbury, CT*
Engulfed!

Weekly Class

*First Place: David Sokol,
Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA*

Great angle!

*Second Place: David Sokol,
Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA*

Strong composition!

*Third Place: Alyssa Stone,
Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA*
Storm!

SPOT NEWS STORY

Daily Class 1

*First Place: Elizabeth Dobbins, Aaron Curtis, Amanda, Burke,
Kori Tuitt, The Sun, Lowell, MA*

This is a comprehensive, well researched and well written package of stories of the quadruple homicide that, as the headline states, shocked the usually quiet town of Groton, Massachusetts. The design and placement of the stories on the front and inside page adds to the quality of the reporting by clearly presenting readers not only the significance of the event and the various angles the reporters covered to address the impact of the story to the community. This is what spot news coverage is all about.

*Second Place: Kiera Blessing,
The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA*

A well written, detailed and heartfelt story of the death of a beloved 11- year-old girl killed by a hit and run driver. Reporter Kiera Blessing did an outstanding job of gathering information about the incident from family and friends and she put the story together with her quality writing which carried the reader easily through the whole story. As always with spot news, details, details and details make for a winning entry.

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

Reporter Cody Shepard did an exceptional job writing and reporting on the deaths of two young brothers stabbed to death by their mother. His quick gathering of details from police, family and neighbors made the story an outstanding job of reporting breaking news. As with all winners in the Spot News category a combination of important details and good writing make for a good service to readers.

Daily Class 2

First Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

It is not unusual for a newspaper to feature an important spot news story over a period of many days as a story unfolds and additional details released. But what the Patriot Ledger accomplished is an impressive package of news stories over seven days of which any one could have been a winner in the Spot News category. From the first story and sidebars of a Weymouth police officer killed with his own gun after a struggle with a suspect to the final stories related to a 'Hero, Patriot' Laid to Rest' the Patriot Ledger staff brought an outstanding representation of commitment to their readers in the work they accomplished reporting this tragedy. The newspaper deserves a sincere Tip 'O the Hat for their sustained effort.

*Second Place: Buffy Spencer, Stephanie Barry and Patrick Johnson,
The Republican, Springfield, MA*

DNA testing leads to charges in killing of young teacher in '92 - The Republican was the first media to identify the suspect acting on information from a source soon after an arrest was made. From that point on the Republican staff lead by reporter Buffy Spencer created not only well written detailed stories of the arrest and the history of the event but a design and graphics that added to a significant service of information and comprehension for readers. They also added a significant electronic package of spot news coverage of the event on their website. In all ways the Republican was the leader in reporting this spot news event.

SPOT NEWS STORY *(continued)*

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

When tragedy strikes people need to rely on their news provider to help them know what went on and how it will impact their lives. The Cape Cod Times, always a leader in dependable reporting, keeps its reputation going with a most impressive coverage of the winter storm in early January, 2018, that blasted the Cape and Islands “with rain, wind, flooding” and with “bitter cold” to follow. With detailed stories and information along with a package of photos, the Times summarized the event as well as could be done.

Weekly Class

First Place: James Kukstis,

Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

This package of stories on the impact of the March 2018 storm was the most comprehensive spot news story in this category. With an outstanding effort of wide spread coverage the newspaper gave reporter James E. Kukstis plenty of space to tell the story. Starting with three lead stories on page one and additional sidebars and photos on two inside pages the reporting was such no reader could think they missed any information about the impact of the story. Good job.

Second Place: Caleigh Cross,

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Fire stories are often just fire stories. But this story by reporter Caleigh Cross separates itself from other who, what, when, where and how stories because of the writing. The story has wonderful detail and explanation of the real impact and emotion of the impact of the presented in such way to keep the reader wanting to follow along with anticipation of what is coming next. A heartfelt, but not sappy, presentation is much appreciated by the reader. As always for winners in this category it is the detail and the quality of the writing that makes the difference.

Third Place: Emma Pope McCright and Sophie Pope McCright, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Reporters Emma Pope McCright and Sophie Pope McCright earned recognition in the Spot News category for the same reason other newspapers received winning recognition...good writing and exception detail in telling the story. The interviews and attention to detail telling the story of local high school students demonstrating to push lawmakers to find a way to end the gun violence in schools had to have been rewarding to the community readers. The story served its purpose of explaining what the students wanted to say, how they would say it and what they expected to be accomplishes. It's hard to ask for more than that.

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Combined Class

First Place: John Woike,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

This video provides a birds eye view of the damage that was caused by a tornado. Excellent use of aerial footage. Nice job!

Second Place: John Woike,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Very informative piece... the aerial footage does a wonderful job of illustrating how the coast guard keeps waterways clear.

Third Place: John Woike,

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

A great use of aerial footage. Nicely done!

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Weekly Class

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

Notably, in a world of 24-hour news cycles, the venerable Gazette didn't allow its weekly print publishing cycle to limit its mission to keep island residents informed. The headline above was the first of 14 articles submitted and published both online and in print from March through May, as the Steamship Authority struggled to keep its fleet of ferries in service between Vineyard Haven and Woods Hole, MA. The Gazette published five articles online from Sunday through Thursday before the first print edition came out Friday, combining the latest developments with recaps for those who hadn't read online. The writing was authoritative, informative and comprehensive as the team broke scoops on the cause and reported on a subsequent failure even before the first print edition was published.

Second Place: George Brennan and Rich Saltzberg,

The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Covering the same story, The Times performed creditably, submitting seven print editions from March to June. The first, a print package of three articles five days after the initial breakdown, told the plight of ferry passengers forced to anchor for five hours without power or heat until towed in at 3 a.m. Of special note was The Times reporting and prominent display of truly shocking data on the Steamship Authority's track record with mechanical failures: An average of 37 transits cancelled from January to April during the previous four years compared to 549 in the first four months of 2018 – all coming after a \$17 million refurbishment of the ferry that caused most of the problems.

Third Place: Kelly O'Brien,

Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

Informative and entertaining, O'Brien's articles, published in July and August, tracked the ups and downs of a pair of well-funded sharing-economy startups that distressed municipal governments in Quincy, Cambridge and Somerville. As O'Brien reported, the problems involved Ofo, a Chinese company with more than \$2 billion in venture funding, and Bird, Inc., a Silicon Valley firm with \$415 million behind it. Ofo, which had been operating rentable 250 bikes in Quincy, without warning shut down all U.S. operations, including those in Quincy, where officials expressed disappointment at the loss. Cambridge and Somerville officials were having an opposite experience, when Bird, also without notice, scattered dozens of its rentable electric scooters around both communities. Officials, concerned about traffic safety and liability issues, expressed alarm and – later – threats of legal action. The crisis abated by mid-August as Bird suspended its local operations temporarily in response to cease-and-desist letters from the cities.

Daily Class

First Place: Neal Simpson,

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Undersold by its headline, the winning article offered readers a deep dive into the complexities and challenges faced by one major regional investment in mass transit, the 10-year-old half-billion-dollar Greenbush commuter rail line between Braintree and Scituate, MA. The reporter humanized his article in interviews of opponents, as well as supporters, and presented a balanced, informative view of the costs and benefits of a major transit project aimed at easing travel times for commuters in a complex landscape of highways, rail and maritime options.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING *(continued)*

Second Place: Ethan Genter,

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

A person can grow old waiting to drive a taxi on Nantucket, as this enterprising and informative entry illustrated. In an island community with a local economy driven by seasonal tourism, the Board of Selectmen restricts the number of taxi licenses to 64, leaving an additional 91 hopeful residents waiting to obtain one of the precious permits – some for as long as 20 years. Now, the fortunate 64 face new challenges from unlicensed competitors like Uber and Lyft. Genter deftly shows the difficulties in a small community struggling to provide essential services to both its permanent residents and the massive influx of seasonal visitors who support the local tourism business. Conflicts abound, with drivers working for Uber even as they wait for licenses and longtime licensed taxi drivers seeing their incomes siphoned away by Uber and Lyft.

WEBSITE DESIGN

Combined Class

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

The Vineyard Gazette presents news and information in a clean, traditional publication. The below-the-fold middle column breaks up and sorts information in a way that is useful to readers.

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Combined Class

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Clear purpose and expansive effort to engage readers. Loved the shark sighting map and the Cape League Corner. Not so much the fun show, but the effort to produce a weekly program is recognized.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

INNOVATOR AWARD

Combined Class

First Place: Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

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

DIGITAL STRATEGY EXCELLENCE

Combined Class

First Place: Vineyard Gazette,

Martha's Vineyard, MA

The Vineyard Gazette is applauded for its digital strategy. Attracting new audiences through Instagram, events, email newsletters, contests and slideshows ensure the Vineyard Gazette is relevant to both digital and print readers. Excellent!

PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

David Sokol,

GateHouse Media New England

Daily Newspapers

Peter Pereira,

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Miranda Willson,

Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

Good variety of stories with an eye on her community. Routine stories and hot-button controversies are covered in good easy-to-read style.

Daily Newspapers

Leah Willingham,

Concord Monitor, Concord, NH

Thoughtful, caring stories on gut-wrenching stories of the day. Willingham is a talented storyteller whose quality of writing elevates her entries to the top of the category. Well done.

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Andrew Martin,

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Daily Newspapers

Doug Fraser

Cape Cod times, Hyannis, MA

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Niche Publications

First Place: Fiddlehead, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Second Place: UpCountry Magazine, Keene, NH

Third Place: VT Ski & Ride, Middlebury, VT

Specialty Publications

First Place: Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Second Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

Weekly Class 1

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

The Islander resoundingly affirms its community ties with a purely local vision and distinctive down-home feel from front to back. Plenty of local news items, both staff-generated and contributed. Impressive opinion page, with strong mix of letters, local columnists and editorials - and the lone entry in category with local cartoons! Ad mix runs gamut from high-end real estate to seasonal resort business to local mom & pops. "Out & About" section, in particular, leaves no stone unturned in search for local ad dollars. Readers and advertisers both get their money worth here.

Second Place:

The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The Reporter is chock-full of original reporting writing, with compelling enterprise pieces like front-page elder housing story backed up by plenty of secondary material deeper in the paper. "Garden-Home-Design" section is brimming with both ads and local content, while "Leaf Peeper" section maximizes seasonal opportunities in local economy. Also like unusual placement of real estate advertising up front - and bet realtors love it too.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE *(continued)*

Third Place:

The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Lots to like here. On an island (so to speak) with a small year-round population and business base, the Times has a nice mix of municipal and feature reporting. Martha Ball weekly column is a community gem, with other contributors providing depth. We applaud local editorials written off the CURRENT news cycle; they don't have to be long to get the point across - but can't we dedicate a full ad-free page for opinion rather than jumping letters? Finally, while a sizable weekly portfolio of high-end real estate advertising clearly pays the bills, the Times deserves credit for providing a range of options, presumably at lower price points, for smaller customers.

Weekly Class 2

First Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

An alternative weekly newspaper that is exceptional! Seven days is well-written throughout. The reporting is thorough and extensive. The layout is clean and advertising support is impressive.

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

An exceptionally rich, deep and varied offering of news and features, in tourist season and even in the off-season. The in-season depth is epitomized by a books section that would be the envy of the likes of The New York Times. The Gazette has the Vineyard!

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

Clearly a strong solid newspaper in this category. Solid, local reporting with complete community and calendar sections.

Honorable Mention: Donna Tunney, Cape Codder, Orleans, MA

A small-town newspaper that strives, and largely succeeds, in satisfying the mission of a community newspaper in its paper-of-record approach to informing its readers. History pieces and the Cape Experience section are among the paper's high points.

Honorable Mention: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

A solid offering of community news with what appears to be a particular focus on environmental concerns so important to Vermont. The arts and entertainment section is a special treat and shows the Independent at its best in design and presentation. The spring high school sports section also added value to this entry.

Daily Class 1

First Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

This newspaper sets a standard for the excellence that can be achieved by a small daily when its management and staff applies itself to servicing the local communities and readers with full time professionalism. Their reporting is strong in the categories of special topic, regular daily news, sports, business and opinion sections. The newspaper enhances its work with a clean layout and design all adding up to complete the selection for first place for General Excellence.

Second Place: The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

The Sun Chronicle is a small daily newspaper by New England standards but can compliment itself for presenting its news package in such a way that it can compete with larger daily newspapers. It provides compelling stories of general news and important issues for its readers with broad coverage of the communities it serves

with its volume of local news, strong opinion section and sports. Thus, with its good design and clean look coupled with the news package the honor of being recognized with a General Excellence award is well deserved.

Third Place: The Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

The Eagle-Tribune is perennially recognized as one of the best small daily newspapers in New England and the recognition is well deserved. It represents how a newspaper can be regarded as top notch in serving the needs of readers in the communities it covers. It is filled with a good mix of local, state, national, enterprise and sports news enhanced by a strong editorial and opinion section. Not to be overlooked is its clean and attractive design. The Eagle-Tribune continues to deserve the reputation of a top notch local daily newspaper.

Daily Class 2

First Place: Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

A trove of local news for readers to feast on, including a geographic news mix via zoned editions – a noble undertaking in a time of squeezed newsholes starved of ads. The strength of the Republican-American's local news coverage cuts across virtually all of its sections; sports is a particular example. News digests are plentiful and helpful. Solid paper-of-record elements help fulfill the Republican-American's local news mission. Photography and layouts are excellent. The Accent section is too – colorful, local, with a full and varied comics section. The Republican-American treats readers to a solid news package overall, presented well.

Second Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

A worthy runner-up in this category, based on a commitment to local news and deft presentations. The Patriot Ledger makes maximum use of the tighter newsholes that prevail throughout the newspaper industry these days. The wealth of editorial cartoons, LedgerLand, and CritterCam are pluses.

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

All around solid newspaper. The Cape Cod Times is strong presents a complete package to readers.



NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION DISTINGUISHED JUDGES PANEL

Wayne Agner - Editor and Publisher, *The Trinity Journal*, Redding, CA

Scott Anderson - Northwestern University; former head of editorial at Chicago Tribune Interactive, former reporter and editor at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, former reporter at The Patriot Ledger

Joseph Bergantino - Executive Director, Managing Editor and Co-Founder of New England Center of Investigative Reporting

Karen Bordeleau - Former Executive Editor, *Providence Journal*

Sharon Chapman - Features Editor, *Austin American-Statesman*

Sherry Chisenhall - Editor, *Wichita (KS) Eagle*

Catherine Clabby - Sr. Environmental Reporter, *North Carolina Health News*

Kim Dalglish - Former VP Marketing and Specialty Publications, *The Columbia (SC) State*, *Bradenton (FL) Herald*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Oreste D'Arconte - Former Publisher, *The Sun Chronicle*

Darell Davis - VP Creative Services, *Metro Creative Graphics*

Dwayne Desaulniers - New England Media Director, *Associated Press*

Rodney Doherty - Former Executive Editor, *Foster's Daily Democrat*

Mike Donoghue - *Burlington Free Press*, *St. Michael's College*

Jim Foudy - Adjunct Professor, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Chuck Fountain - Professor, *Northeastern University*

George Geers - Publisher, *Plaidswede Publishing Co.* Director, *New Hampshire Writers' Project*, *Journalist*

Dr. Nancy L. Green - Former VP Circulation, *Lee Enterprises* former Publisher, *Courier Communications*

Alin Gregorian - Editor, *Armenian Mirror Spectator*

Larry Grimes - President, *W.B. Grimes & Co.* and *The Sports Advisory Group*

Jennifer Berry Hawes - Pulitzer prize winning journalist, *The Post and Courier*, *Charleston, SC*

Ed Henninger - Design Consultant, *Henninger Consulting*

Robert Herguth - Reporter, *Chicago Sun-Times*

Tom Heslin - Former Senior VP and Executive Editor, *The Providence Journal*

Robert Holt III - Former AME Director of Photography and Director of Operations and Technology, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; former Director of Publishing Industry Marketing, *Scitex*

Bill Kirtz - Northeastern University; former Editor for *The Patriot Ledger* and Publisher/Editor for the *Marblehead (MA) Messenger*

Bill Kole - *New England News* Editor, *Associated Press*

Marc Lacey - Associate Managing Editor, *The New York Times*

Robert Laska - Former President & Publisher, *Connecticut Post*

Leah Lamson - Director, *New England High School Journalism Collaborative*; Former editor, *Telegram & Gazette*

Larry Laughlin - Former Northern New England AP Bureau Chief; Editor of *NEFAC Report*

Len Levin - Former Copy Desk Chief, *Providence Journal*

Linda Lotridge Levin - Dept. of Journalism, *University of Rhode Island*

Kathy Lu - Enterprise Editor, *The Kansas City Star*

Jean McDonald - *University of Illinois*; former sports writer, sports editor, and director of electronic publishing at the *Champaign (IL) News-Gazette*

Morgan McGinley - Former Editorial Page Editor, *The Day*

Lincoln McKie, Jr. - Northeastern University; former publisher, *Journal Transcript Newspapers*, former executive editor, *Lowell Sun*, former managing editor, *Telegram & Gazette*

Alan Mittelstaedt - Associate Professor, *University of Southern California Annenberg*

Carolyn Callison Murray - Former Editor and VP *The Sun News*, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

J. Keith Moyer - Senior Fellow, *University of Minnesota*, former president and publisher *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

Christopher Ritchie - Penn State University; former features editor at the *Delaware State News*, rewrite desk chief at the *Middlesex News*, and editor positions at the *Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times-Leader*

George Rodrigue - Editor and General Manager, *The Plain Dealer*

Bob Ryan - Former VP Knight-Ridder Digital and *San Jose Mercury News*

Bill Sarno - Associate Editor, *Hartford Guardian*, former Editor of the *Bristol Press* and *Lakeville Journal*

Justin Silverman - Executive Director, *NE First Amendment Coalition*

James Smith - Former Editor at the *Record-Journal*, *Connecticut Post*, *New Britain Herald*, *The Day*, *The News-Times*; Sports Editor and City Editor at *The Hartford Courant*

Chris Snider - Professor, *Drake University*

Jeff South - Associate Professor, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

Suzette Standring - Syndicated Columnist

George Sylvie - Associate Professor, *University of Texas at Austin*

Emily Sweeney - Reporter, *Boston Globe*

Rebecca Tallent - *University of Idaho*; former ombudsman for the *Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review*

John Voket - Associate Editor, *The Newtown Bee*, Director of Public Affairs, *Cox Media Group, CT*

Susan Walker - Vice President/General Manager, *Herald Newspapers Inc.*, *Chicago, IL*

Maggie Walter - Professor, *University of Missouri*

Brent Walth - *University of Oregon*, *School of Journalism & Communication*

Karen Weintraub - Adjunct Professor, *Boston University*

Jon Wells - Professor, *Afro-American studies*, *University of Michigan*

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