

## 2017-18 College Contest

### **Audio Storytelling**

First: Sufferer: The supergroup with a purpose; Q30 Television; Cullen Ronan

*“Interesting niche podcast that answers the question this judge always has about music and musicians: the back story. Cullen’s had a grip on the topic and asks good questions that engages the musician into going deeper. Well done.”*

### **Editorial/Op-ed**

First: Least wanted; The Tamarack; Alam Khan

Second: DeVos missed the point with Title IX, Quinnipiac Chronicle; Christina Popik

Third: How bystanders enabled Larry Nassar; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Peter Dewey

### **Feature**

First: Second breath at life; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Kaycie Romanello

*“This is a well-written piece about an interesting, engaging topic.”*

### **General Column/Commentary**

First: That’s what she said: Faux fems; The Tamarack; Jessica Ney

*“Good job making your case about your argument. More numbers or statistics would have improved the arguments.”*

Second: Editor’s notebook: Diamonds of wisdom; The Tamarack; Alam Khan

Third: Thank you all: Being brave; The Tamarack; Christopher Gordon

### **General Reporting**

First: Multiple women accuse theater professor of sexual misconduct; The Recorder; Ruth Bruno

Second: Breaking down Trump’s recent ban; Fairfield Mirror; Jesse Erickson

Third: Controversial remarks result in impeachment for Sophomore Class President Chris Montalvo; Quinnipiac Chronicle; David Friedlander, Victoria Simpri

### **Non-Page 1 Layout**

First: Vine Cover Vol. 43, issue 8; Fairfield Mirror; Alicia Phaneuf, Cara Lee

Second: April Page 2 layout; The Tamarack; Janice Bielawa

### **Page 1 Layout**

First: Front Page Vol. 42, issue 14; Fairfield Mirror; Andrew Darosa, Jesse Erickson

Second: March front page layout; The Tamarack; Janice Bielawa

### **Sports Feature Story**

First: Last call; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Ryan Chichester

*“A well told story with a solid lead that grabbed the reader’s attention. Creatively told and we felt like we knew the man behind “the voice” by the end of reading this story.”*

Second: Chaise to 1,000; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Logan Reardon

Third: Mutual respect; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Conor Roche

### **Sports News Story**

First: Golf team still left in the dark; The Recorder; Tyler Roaix

Second: Former all-American Walsh returns to compete; Southern News; Matt Gad

Third: Quinnipiac rugby makes history, “three-peats” as national champions; Q30 Television; Kyle Levasseur

### **Spot News**

First: White House correspondent arrested during speech at ‘It’s OK to be White’ event; UCONN Daily Campus; Lillian Whittaker

*“Good writing under deadline pressure. Strong quotes from students.”*

Second: Thousands rally at State Capitol to fight for gun control; The Recorder; Sarah Willson

Third: Proposal could transform Hilltop Cafe into a pub and living rooms; The Recorder; Angela Fortuna

### **Video Storytelling**

No award given

## **2017 Excellence in Journalism Contest**

### **Arts and Entertainment**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Battling mold at Twain House; Hartford Courant; Susan Dunne

*“Well researched, well reported, and by a journalist who clearly knows the history of the (somewhat benighted) subject, knows how to convey that history, and knows how to contextualize arts news into a fine feature.”*

Second: At the broken places; Hartford Courant; Susan Dunne

Third: Warfare, art thou, Romeo?; Hartford Courant; Christopher Arnott

#### ***Regional B***

First: Still 'crazy' after all these years; News-Times; Barry Lytton

*“A fine marriage of content and form. This feature takes a marvelous story and tells it well.”*

Second: Conn College’s Dorfman makes his Broadway debut; The Day; Kristina Dorsey

Third: NEA under assault; The Hour; Kaitlyn Krasselt

#### ***Magazine***

First: Mike Reiss: The joke's on us. He really likes musicals; Hartford Magazine; Frank Rizzo

*“A fun, lively introduction to a man who's not a household name but who's worth knowing about for his accomplishments.”*

#### ***Broadcast***

No award given

#### ***Hyperlocal***

First: For artist, mural’s future uncertain with library expansion; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

*“Nicely reported and written look at a dispute that touches on several points of community interest: the public library, a local artist, and local donations. This shows that arts & entertainment can be newsy, too. A classic hyperlocal story.”*

Second: Salt shaker; Valley LIFE; Mara Dresner

### **Audio Storytelling**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Women at higher risk for opioid addiction, face treatment barriers; Connecticut Health I-Team; Colleen Shaddox

*“Solid production values, including appropriate use of music, relevant topic, good execution.”*

Second: Goat tracks podcast: Jamie McDonald on competitive eating, managing an expanding barbecue empire; Hartford Courant; Chris Brodeur, Leeanne Griffin

Third: UConn Insider podcast: Former Husky Swin Cash on the program's culture, broadcasting and motherhood; Hartford Courant; Chris Bordeur

#### ***Regional B***

First: The Storyline: What's it like to be a submariner? We spent 48 hours on the USS John Warner; The Day; Carlos Virgen, Julia Bergman

*“Good rapport, nice use of sound, unique subject, draws in the listener.”*

Second: Paying our respects to Groton’s Bayou Smokehouse; The Day; Rick Koster, Peter Huoppi

Third: Morning record: Reflecting on Linehan’s account of workplace sexual assault; Record-Journal; Mike Savino, Eric Cotton

### **Broadcast**

No award given

### **Hyperlocal**

First: Klau: We need leakers; Branford Eagle; Marcia Chambers

Second: ICE given access to state data; Branford Eagle; Marcia Chambers

### **Breaking News**

#### **Regional A**

First: 1 Dead, 4 injured in Bridgeport shooting; Connecticut Post; Tara O'Neill, Michael Mayko

#### **Regional B**

No award given

### **Hyperlocal**

First: A crash turns strangers into heroes; WestportNow.com; Gordon Joseloff

*"A human angle on a breaking story that illuminates the details of the event through narrative. An amazing series of events."*

Second: Former neighbor recalls car into water victim; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

Third: Branford Police canine officer sues over termination; Branford Eagle; Marcia Chambers

### **Business**

#### **Regional A**

First: A new era in pain treatment; Connecticut Post; Paul Schott

*"Timely topic, well researched and reported. Crucial personal story, linked to the bigger picture with data and precise detail."*

Second: Will CT catch or miss the boat on offshore wind energy?; The Connecticut Mirror; Jan Ellen Spiegel

#### **Regional B**

First: In EB's shadow, smaller manufacturers tackle skills gap; The Day; Erica Moser

*"A great story-behind-the-story that will give readers an important insight into a key sector of the local economy."*

Second: Boom years return to Electric Boat; The Day; Julia Bergman

### **Magazine**

First: Spirit of Innovation: Advancing and reigniting Connecticut's inventive glory; Hartford Magazine; Staff

*"Solid concept. Good range of personalities and companies."*

### **Broadcast**

First: A day at Sheffield Island; News 12; Andrew Hurley

*"Great storytelling that puts the viewer right there with tight editing and the perfect details, including startled kids at just the right moment. It's a simple story told with skill and style and from different viewpoints."*

Second: Redemption; News 12; Marissa Alter, Christopher Wood

### **Hyperlocal**

First: Oystering on Mill Pond: Reclaiming a family legacy; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio, Gordon Joseloff

*"An interesting look behind the scenes at a local business. The story evokes a strong sense of place."*

Second: Pop-ups pose solution to struggling downtown retail; Westport News; Sophie Vaughan

### **Continuing Coverage**

#### **Regional A**

First: Death of Matthew Tirado; Hartford Courant; Staff

*"Strong watchdog reporting that never let officials off of the hook."*

Second: Tech school PR Scandal; Hartford Courant; Jon Lender

Third: The shooting of Jayson Negron; Connecticut Post; Tara O'Neill, Michael Mayko, Daniel Tepfer, John

Burgeson, Brian Lockhart, Cedar Attanasio

### **Regional B**

First: From change to termination - Meriden's 1-year relationship with City Manager Guy Scaife; Record-Journal; Leigh Tauss

*"This is excellent accountability reporting on a beat, drawing on sources and Freedom of Information Act requests to shed light on the divisive leadership of a city manager that apparently sparked an FBI investigation and ultimately cost him his job. The stories are also well balanced, presenting multiple points of view, including a story giving appropriate prominence to the city manager's proponents."*

Second: Deadly addiction: an ongoing crisis; The Day; Lindsay Boyle, Karen Florin

Third: The badger files; Stamford Advocate; Angela Carella, Nelson Oliviera

### **Broadcast**

First: Connecticut's budget crisis; WTIC-AM; Aaron Kupec

*"This was an excellent series of stories about the state's budget crisis. Accessible, easy to comprehend, while giving good facts, dollar figures, programs on the chopping block, etc. Well sourced and balanced. Well done."*

Second: WNPR's The Island Next Door: Connecticut and Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria; WNPR; Jeff Cohen, Ryan Caron King

Third: Patient abuse at state psychiatric hospital; NBC 30; Len Besthoff, David Michnowicz, Garrett Allison

### **Hyperlocal**

First: Housing Authority attorney to "seize the moment"; Branford Eagle; Diana Stricker

Second: Saint Clements fire; Glastonbury Citizen - Rivereast News Bulletin; Elizabeth Regan

Third: Church 'Black Lives Matter' banner vandalized, bringing condemnation; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

### **Courts/Crime**

#### **Regional A**

First: In Connecticut, a formula helps make bail decisions; The Connecticut Mirror; Jake Kara

*"Clear explanation of the formula and interesting interactive, novel and quite explanatory."*

Second: N.Y. Corruption scandal - On the defensive; Connecticut Post; Ken Dixon

Third: Teen slipped through state's grasp; Hartford Courant; Nicholas Rondinone, Josh Kovner, Rebecca Lurye

#### **Regional B**

First: Inmates in Cheshire say college level classes offer hope, improve prison behavior; Record-Journal; Mike Savino

*"Nicely written story about what could have been a boring topic."*

Second: Baby alive before hitting water; Middletown Press; Cassandra Day

Third: Behind the scenes: Officers converge on region for K-9 training; The Day; Lindsay Boyle

### **Magazine**

First: When should police pursue? Bridgeport shooting spurs calls for reform; Connecticut Magazine; Michael Lee-Murphy

### **Broadcast**

First: Boom in car break-ins, thefts; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Dan Corcoran

Second: Norwalk overdose; News 12; Madeline Rivera, Andrew Hurley

### **Hyperlocal**

No award given

### **Data**

#### **Regional A**

First: In system with little oversight, Connecticut's biggest lottery winners often pay huge price; Hartford Courant; Matthew Kauffman, Dave Altimari, Jon William Allsop

*"This story employed data in service of a story, deftly balancing quantitative information with the systems and individuals it represents. It's exemplary of data journalism, revealing patterns in a practice so ubiquitous it's easy*

*to ignore. Presenting those patterns alongside narratives about people like Lanoce and Morant grants the public complementary concrete evidence with which to continue discourse from your publication. That this is part of a larger collaboration also lends it value in contributing to evaluation of the practice across cultural and regulatory environments, and sets a precedent for collaboration. I also appreciated your having invited a subject matter expert to speak to probabilities.”*

Second: The state of Connecticut's cities and towns in charts; The Connecticut Mirror; Jake Kara, Jacqueline Rabe Thomas

Third: Less access to health services, programs in rural areas take toll; Connecticut Health I-Team; Jodie Mozdzer Gil

### ***Regional B***

First: Connecticut sees sharp increase in overdose deaths of young women; The Day; Lindsay Boyle, Carlos Virgen

### ***Magazine***

First: Town By town: 50 Towns: Your home, income, household, politics, education; Hartford Magazine; Nancy Schoeffler, Stephen Busemeyer

### ***Broadcast***

First: Airports & airlines with the most delayed flights; NBC 30; Dan Corcoran, Jon Wardle, Mike Gearin  
*“Excellent work parsing a huge amount of data and disseminating it for TV viewers”*

Second: Congestion, Crashes Making Interstate 95 in CT ‘a nightmare’; NBC 30; Dan Corcoran, Jon Wardle, Mike Gearin

### ***Hyperlocal***

No award given

## **Diversity Coverage**

### ***Regional A***

First: As Sheff case persists, frustrations grow over minority students left out of magnet schools; Hartford Courant; Vanessa de la Torre, Matthew Kauffman

*“Lemme get this straight: The private charter school rejected the Hispanic five-year-old because of his race, based on their school de-segregation policy; here's an update on the lawsuit. Offering a crystal-clear take on an unbelievably mixed up situation, this story helps readers understand a lawsuit that is sure to impact public policy, possibly nationwide. Go get em!”*

Second: Clinical trials in need of diversity; Connecticut Health I-Team; Sujata Srinivasan

Third: Racial disparities persist despite decline in sudden unexpected infant deaths; Connecticut Health I-Team; Cara Rosner

### ***Regional B***

First: Pathways: The road to lawful residency in the U.S.; The Day; Lindsay Boyle

*“An engaging, focused and smart package that can't fail to genuinely inform readers about what our immigration system is really about. The mobile-friendly layout actually worked and added an element of depth, drawing readers into incredibly painful but crucial stories with a light, warm touch. We need more informative journalism like this.”*

Second: An all-white school board; The Hour; Kaitlyn Krasselt

Third: Wallingford teen born with genetic disorder urges students to ‘embrace our differences’; Record-Journal; Bailey Wright

### ***Magazine***

First: Kinetic quilts: Hartford artist Ed Johnetta Miller-Fowler's vibrant work displayed around the world; Hartford Magazine; Theresa Sullivan Barger

### ***Broadcast***

First: Immigration rally; News 12; Nina Kapur, Jim Mennino

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Painting with finer brush strokes: Finding a more complete local history; Valley Courier; Michelle Anjirbag

*“Strong narrative with diverse sources — and good multimedia to boot”*

Second: Culinary traditions, cultures, and stories shared by Sanctuary Kitchen through food from the heart; The Sound; Pem McNerney

Third: TEAM Westport essay winner ‘super excited’; WestportNow.com; Gordon Joseloff

### **Editorial**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Get going on fixing foundations; Hartford Courant; Carolyn Lumsden

#### ***Regional B***

First: Prepare to challenge speech, not silence it; The Day; Paul Choiniere

*“An extremely well-written editorial makes thoughtful points and examines the motives and actions of all concerned. Any organization would be proud of this editorial.”*

Second: Malloy’s right, Connecticut not obligated to back Trump deportation policy; The Day; Paul Choiniere

Third: Public rallies no place for weapons; News-Times; Jacqueline Smith

### **Editorial Cartoon**

#### ***Regional B***

First: Sandy Hook; The Day; Jacinta Myers, Paul Choiniere

*“Well-done cartoon provokes emotion and thought, and makes a subtle argument.”*

#### ***Magazine***

First: Do you mind...; Seasons Magazine; Bob Englehart

*“The cartoon illustrates an accompanying story and provides another entry point for readers.”*

### **Education**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Two lives, shared; Hartford Courant; Kathleen Megan

*“Thoughtful, detailed and respectful portrait of two teenagers with an unusual medical condition. A service to them and to the whole community by answering the question on the public’s mind and making space for them in the wider world.”*

Second: The State of Connecticut’s schools in charts; The Connecticut Mirror; Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Jake Kara

#### ***Regional B***

First: No longer a simple question: Where are you going to high school?; The Day; Claire Bessette

*“An interesting issue and well-written. A nice expository of modern life, a trend, and an issue that affects the whole region, complete with a graph and nice photos. Solid reporting.”*

Second: A question about the fair treatment of Dr. Nivea Torres; CT Latino News; Bill Sarno

Third: Former Torrington principal traces firing to dispute over special education; Register Citizen; Ben Lambert

#### ***Magazine***

No award given

#### ***Broadcast***

First: Autistic school board member; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Mike Hydeck

*“Warm, interesting portrait of a warm, interesting subject.”*

Second: Black folks don’t fence; News 12; Andrew Christman

Third: Keeping score; News 12; Marissa Alter, Christopher Wood

#### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Tears for future of Staples child development program; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

*“Offering a clear-eyed explanation of the problem, the story included the voices of many people, including a student.”*

Second: Long lots principal on ‘paid administrative leave’ after asserting ‘legal claims’; WestportNow.com; Gordon Joseloff

Third: A fellowship of writers; Cheshire Academy Online; Leslie Hutchison

## **Feature Photo**

### ***Regional A***

First: Clearing snow; Connecticut Post; Brian Pounds

*“Nice composition here to juxtapose the mural with the foreground. The falling snow gives it depth and I like the muted color palette.”*

Second: Quinnipiac grads urged to ‘practice the folly of enthusiasm’; New Haven Register; Arnold Gold

Third: Painting the ceiling; Connecticut Post; Christian Abraham

### ***Regional B***

First: Sunrise dance; The Day; Sean D. Elliot

*“Beautiful and unusual photo. Great light, moment, situation. Very compelling image.”*

Second: Dancer; The Day; Tim Cook

Third: Lantern light; The Day; Dana Jensen

### ***Magazine***

First: Farm-to-table favorites; Seasons Magazine; Alycia Chrosniak

*“The lighting, composition and color in these images stood out from the rest for me.”*

Second: Sylvia Sobocinski portrait; Seasons Magazine; Nick Caito

Third: Yale's new rock stars; Seasons Magazine; Amber Jones

### ***Broadcast***

First: After leaving Puerto Rico, first day of school in Hartford; WNPR; Ryan Caron King

*“A nice moment and well-composed, with a caption that clearly illustrates the story.”*

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: In the mud; Greenwich Time; Tyler Sizemore

*“Excellent feature photo - peak action, texture, moment and color. Being right up in the mud makes it feel like the reader is going to get splashed. Photographer took care to write a complete caption.”*

Second: Bubble man; WestportNow.com; Anna-Liisa Nixon

## **Feature Story**

### ***Regional A***

First: Two lives, shared; Hartford Courant; Kathleen Megan

Second: The 27th victim; News-Times; Rob Reysner

Third: DCF finds success in domestic violence program for fathers; New Haven Register; Esteban L. Hernandez

### ***Regional B***

First: Eagle transforms swabs to cadets; The Day; Sean D. Elliot

*“Crisp, clear writing with great photos and video.”*

Second: ‘Never give up hope’ is message from East Lyme family with mother, daughter battling cancer; The Day;

Kimberly Drelich

Third: Ship pilot has safely guided more than 4,000 military vessels; The Day; Julia Bergman

### ***Magazine***

First: Cary Wheaton: Activism and acumen at heart of Billings Forge leader’s success; Hartford Magazine; Matthew Ormseth

*“Good lead: no clichés, no quotes, and written in a way that made me want to keep reading. This is a great, well-written profile that weaves in important themes of gentrification, revitalization, race, etc.”*

Second: Communities on the line: Town centers with Hartford rail stops are being reinvigorated; Hartford

Magazine; Leonard Felson

Third: Gustave Whitehead: First in flight or fake news?; Connecticut Magazine; Erik Ofgang

### ***Broadcast***

First: Creation station; News 12; Frank Bruce, Justin Domejczyk

*“This was a delightful video postcard that kept me watching. Loved the train's-eye view tape and the mix of close ups and longer shots. Very creative storytelling that showed the same eye for detail and passion for a seemingly simple subject as the train makers themselves.”*

Second: Star pupil; News 12; Marissa Altar, Andrew Hurley, John Dempsey

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Whose war?; Greenwich Time; Alexandra Villarreal

Second: Gone too soon; Valley LIFE; John Fitts

### **General Column**

#### ***Regional A***

First: 'Powerless bystanders in a segregated community'; Connecticut Post; Ken Dixon

*“Ken Dixon knows how to assemble a superb column: You leave the office. You find the local angle on a larger issue. You interview someone on the front lines. You work the language. You don't mail in a single paragraph and, in closing, you nail a haunting image to your reader's forehead.”*

Second: Mr. Carson, slaves were not immigrants; Hartford Courant; Frank Harris

Third: Niko, Chris, Orson, Diana, yikes! Please don't name winter storms!; The Connecticut Mirror; Ben Bogardus

#### ***Regional B***

First: Hushing up Block Island crime; The Day; David Collins

Second: A mom's shift from participant to observer; Stamford Advocate; Deborah DiSesa Hirsch

Third: Yellowjackets that don't sting; Stamford Advocate; Jeff Gewert

### ***Magazine***

First: In our midst: Double feature; Hartford Magazine; Rand Richards Cooper

Second: In our midst: What the nose knows; Hartford Magazine; Rand Richards Cooper

Third: In our midst: 'Just Mercy' is author Bryan Stevenson's call to action; Hartford Magazine; Rand Richards Cooper

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: On photographic memories and holding onto the past; The Sound; Amy J. Barry

Second: All's right with the world even when it isn't; The Sound; Amy J. Barry

Third: Opinion: Digital arrest reports pose quandary; WestportNow.com; Steve Nevas

### **Government**

#### ***Regional A***

First: City paid millions for unused sick, vacation time; Hartford Courant; Jenna Carlesso

*“Carlesso's use of data and enterprise reporting shed light on Hartford's outrageous policy of allowing city employees to reap huge payments for hundreds of accrued sick days as the city goes broke.”*

Second: Staffer for Ganim, chief had take-home cop car; Connecticut Post; Brian Lockhart

Third: A liberal grades his colleagues: 'I'm not here to make friends'; The Connecticut Mirror; Mark Pazniokas

#### ***Regional B***

First: Preston: Small town on the verge of something big; The Day; Claire Bessette

*“Thorough, well-written and well-researched piece. Acknowledging that townspeople had proven paper's own 2009 editorial wrong was a nice touch.”*

### ***Broadcast***

First: Connecticut's budget crisis; WTIC-AM; Aaron Kupec

*“Thorough coverage of budget issues by highlighting various implications.”*

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: How many voted for Belltown Hub?; Glastonbury Citizen - Rivereast News Bulletin; Elizabeth Regan

*“Elizabeth Regan asked the right questions when a recount revealed mistakes in the original vote tally, and refused to take no for an answer when she requested important records. She demonstrated excellent reporting and follow through.”*



## **Headline**

### ***Regional B***

First: Levinson headlines; News-Times; Linda Levinson

*"Clever and concise headlines do everything they need to do."*

Second: Orange, Grace, Water A1 headlines; News-Times; Lynn Schnier

Third: Budget, Drive, Bridge; The Hour; Liana Teixeira

### ***Magazine***

First: Shock and law, Band of brothers, Talking a good game headlines; Connecticut Magazine; Albie Yuravich

*"Very clever headlines draw the reader. Really like the use of 'utility player' and other jargon in the baseball story, and 'Shock and law' sets the right tone for a serious story."*

Second: Surviving, Icicle Style, Jeans; Hartford Magazine; Nancy Schoeffler

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Beach, Bun Run, Canoodle headlines; WestportNow.com; Gordon Joseloff

*"The headlines show some effort to be clever and draw readers."*

## **Health**

### ***Regional A***

First: For babies with opioid addiction, a mom-centered approach; The Connecticut Mirror; Mackenzie Rigg

*"An in-depth look at how medical professionals are trying to find new ways to deal with infant opioid exposure. Sad, but full of detailed reporting."*

Second: A defense against a crisis; Hartford Courant; Vinny Vella

Third: Parents and victims come to terms with suicide and suicide attempts; New Haven Register; Clare Dignan

### ***Regional B***

No award given

### ***Magazine***

First: Will a Yale study cause us to rethink breast cancer screenings?; Connecticut Magazine; Erik Ofgang

*"Interesting piece about an emerging topic. Well-explained without making it too dense."*

### ***Broadcast***

First: Tick troubles; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Shyang Puri

*"Interesting way to highlight the annual health problem of tick season and explore gaps in the system that put people at risk."*

Second: Saving lives with Narcan; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Dan Corcoran

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: The straight dope on prescription drug abuse; Harbor News; Pem McNerney

*"A wonderful source opens up a national epidemic and illuminates the feelings of opioid addiction from inside a family."*

Second: Strength in the face of tragedy; Newington LIFE; Mara Dresner

Third: First annual Fed-Up rally; Branford Eagle; Sally E. Bahner

## **Humorous Column**

### ***Regional A***

First: Court jester tries to mock campaign law; Connecticut Post; Ken Dixon

*"A cutting lede and a timely subject."*

Second: The perils of the travelin' man; Connecticut Post; Ken Dixon

### ***Regional B***

First: On the cutting edge: Lumberjack Festival; The Day; Steve Fagin

*“These friends seem to be game for anything. An entertaining story about friends with good humor.”*

Second: Take me out coach, I'm ready to leave; The Chronicle; Traci Hastings

Third: Breaking news: Snowflake spotted, racing for Conn.; The Day; Steve Fagin

### ***Magazine***

First: Return to summer camp; Seasons Magazine; Matthew Dicks

Second: Snow daze; Seasons Magazine; Matthew Dicks

Third: Like a sailor; Hartford Magazine; Sarah Wesley Lemire

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Treasured tomato; Valley LIFE; Lynn Woike

Second: Lingering and longing; Guilford Courier; Juliana Gribbins

Third: What's for lunch?; Branford Eagle; Marcia Chambers

### **In-Depth**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Five years after Sandy Hook, Emilie Parker's family finds solace, joy; Hartford Courant; Kathleen McWilliams

*“By profiling a family that decidedly removed itself from the maelstrom of attention following the Sandy Hook tragedy, Kathleen Williams took a fresh and thoughtful approach to the retrospective reporting genre. Rather than simply look back at a devastating moment in a family's history, Williams traced the reality of the Parkers' ongoing life. In doing so, she provides a glimpse of what it is really like to live with a daughter's and sister's death, a glimpse not normally seen in this kind of story. It was an honest and candid piece that must have required incredible trust from the Parkers, trust that is in this judge's eye well-earned.”*

Second: With no plan for replacing Millstone, what are CT's options?; The Connecticut Mirror; Jan Ellen Spiegel

Third: Surveillance video, records offer new perspective on UConn student's 2016 death; Hartford Courant; Vinny Vella, Matthew Kauffman

#### ***Regional B***

First: Some lawyers say child welfare system violates parents' rights; The Day; Deborah Straszheim

*“Very good, in-depth discussion of the power of the Department of Children and Families, incorporating state data and the perspectives of families and lawyers who handle child custody cases. Overall this presents multiple perspectives on a complex, sensitive subject.”*

Second: Urban students lack own schools; Stamford Advocate; Liz Skalka

### ***Magazine***

First: Connecticut's rising seas: Are towns and cities ready?; Connecticut Magazine; Erik Ofgang, Anna Bisaro, Michael Lee-Murphy, Sam Norton, Kathleen Schassler, Albie Yuravich

*“Rising sea levels along the east coast, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, is a most salient issue, and this story tackles it with depth, breadth, and ambition. Well-sourced, informative, and very well done.”*

Second: Marijuana big Mo; Hartford Magazine; Gregory B. Hladky

### ***Broadcast***

First: Donna Palomba story; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Jill Konopka

*“The package was a compelling story, well told, with great production values, focused on a vital issue.”*

Second: Wrong way drivers; NBC 30; Len Besthoff, Jon Wardle

Third: Online reviews; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Dan Corcoran

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Embarrassing conditions frustrate Belltown police; Glastonbury Citizen - Rivereast News Bulletin; Elizabeth Regan

*“Excellent visual details and explanations of the problem and the political dynamics into finding a solution.”*

Second: I'm worth it; The Sound; Pem McNerney, Kelley Fryer

Third: Hope's odyssey resonates; Branford Eagle; Marcia Chambers

### **Infographic Design**

### **Regional B**

No award given

### **Magazine**

First: The path to Mars; Connecticut Magazine; Greg Moody

*"It's elegant to use line weight and hue to differentiate between processes here, and to use the simplicity of the arcs to emphasize that this is an abstraction. I appreciate your walking the reader through the path with succinct annotations. I like that you pulled out the difference in distance into a separate chart so that the rest of the graphic could be focused on the process."*

### **Investigative**

#### **Regional A**

First: Acclaimed Capital Prep Magnet School bypassed normal lottery process for athletes, other students; Hartford Courant; Vanessa de la Torre, Matthew Kauffman

*"This story strikes at issues of basic fairness, equity and power. The meticulous and determined investigation by Vanessa de la Torre and Matthew Kauffman upends the image of a touted charter school that claims it has succeeded by following the rules. The story looks at Capital Prep's current practices of working around the student lottery in the context of its past violations. This deep focus gives the story authenticity and traction — and raises questions about the honesty of the school's dynamic leader. Terrific work."*

Second: Ganim drives up cops' overtime; Connecticut Post; Brian Lockhart

Third: Paid a lot to do very little; Waterbury Republican-American; Josie Albertson-Grove

#### **Regional B**

First: Meriden police lieutenant demoted, officers disciplined after high speed chase in December; Record-Journal; Leigh Tauss

*"In this compelling investigative account, Leigh Tauss reveals the hidden truths about a dangerous police chase during which officers violated a series of rules designed to protect citizens. Tauss compelled the Meriden police to reveal what really happened during this incident. Her reporting shines a light where the Meriden police would rather the public not look — and her story did so with abundant fairness and attention to detail. Great work."*

### **Magazine**

No award given

### **Broadcast**

First: Prescription clawbacks; NBC 30; Garrett Allison, Brad Drazen

*"Genuine investigative digging here. Good job highlighting an unknown issue and educating the public on something that truly hits their pocketbook."*

### **Hyperlocal**

First: Mistaken for a dummy: Did Redding's Peter Valenti have to die?; Patch.com; Colin Miner

*"Through a diligent review of records and body camera footage, Colin Miner revealed how bad policing may have contributed to a man's death. The resulting article is captivating, thorough and disturbing."*

Second: Complaints arise over selectman's sand pit; Glastonbury Citizen - Rivereast News Bulletin; Elizabeth Regan

Third: Chief Koskinas: Talk needed on pistol permits increase & mental health issues; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

### **Leisure**

#### **Regional A**

First: 4 decades of delightful dogs; Hartford Courant; Leeanne Griffin

*"A lovely look inside a family's story and restaurant that makes the reader feel like they are really there."*

Second: A Connecticut pilgrimage to Machu Piccu; Hartford Courant; David Holahan, Kyn Tolson

Third: Boston home to vintage haunts; Hartford Courant; Sarah Wesley Lemire

### **Magazine**

First: Southern comfort dishes from Dixie whistle their way onto local menus; Hartford Magazine; Frank Cohen

*"A tasty look at a trend sweeping the region, and where it's originating"*

Second: Seeing stars; Seasons Magazine; Matt Broderick  
Third: Sage advice; Seasons Magazine; Tovah Martin

### **Broadcast**

First: A solar eclipse viewing party; WTIC-AM; Aaron Kupec  
*"This report makes the eclipse, a well-known event, relatable by using personal stories."*

### **Hyperlocal**

First: Rose Vineyard and Winery: Family farm's next-generation idea bears fruit; The Sound; Pam Johnson  
*"Wonderful description of a family and a key fixture of a town's land."*  
Second: With 'perfect chowder weather,' Chowdafest draws record crowds; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio  
Third: Dog festival a real tail wagger; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

## **Local Reporting**

### **Regional A**

First: City paid millions for unused sick, vacation time; Hartford Courant; Jenna Carlesso  
*"A well-crafted piece exploring short-sighted city budgeting decisions that have had a significant impact on the city's finances, this was a well-sourced and easy to understand article without holding back on the hard facts facing the leaders of Hartford."*  
Second: Costly legal fight flops; Waterbury Republican-American; Bruno Matarazzo Jr.  
Third: Senior meals program cut; Hartford Courant; Jordan Otero Sisson

### **Regional B**

First: Pacific shellfish mystery; The Hour; Kaitlyn Krasselt  
Second: Human effect; Stamford Advocate; Liz Skalka  
Third: Shhh ... the eagles have landed; The Chronicle; Ekaterine Tchelidze

### **Broadcast**

First: Commissioners with benefits follow up; NBC 30; Len Besthoff, Kenny Mahoney, Jon Wardle  
Second: Confessions of a convicted serial killer; NBC 30; Jill Konopka, Jon Wardle

### **Hyperlocal**

First: Hiding in plain sight; Greenwich Time; Alexandra Villarreal  
*"A well-sourced piece that brought home a national concern and tied it to local families, this piece exemplifies how journalism can amplify voices that may not be traditionally heard by the general public. A reader will get a good grasp of the uncertainties as well as debunk commonly held myths of the complex immigration system in the US, and what that means for a local community."*  
Second: "Riffraff" phobia emerges at Parkside hearing; Branford Eagle; Diana Stricker  
Third: Chief Koskinas: Talk needed on pistol permits increase & mental health issues; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

## **News Photo**

### **Regional A**

First: Car drives through house; Waterbury Republican-American; Steven Valenti  
*"The casualness of the man sitting in the hole created by the car made me laugh. Loved the fact that almost all of the people at left were looking in the opposite direction. Shows that you were probably there for awhile. Great shot."*  
Second: Heartbreak; Connecticut Post; Christian Abraham  
Third: Tear; Connecticut Post; Brian Pounds

### **Regional B**

First: Tree on house; The Day; Sarah Gordon  
*"Great shot! Well composed, very story telling and everything in the frame adds to the shot. Wonderful job."*  
Second: In memoriam; Stamford Advocate; Michael Cummo  
Third: Quilt of Valor; The Day; Dana Jensen

### ***Broadcast***

First: Vigil in response to Trump's executive order on immigration; WNPR; Ryan Caron King

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Grief; Greenwich Time; Tyler Sizemore

*"It's always tough to cover funerals. Your shot is tightly cropped, moving and tells the story. Good job at a tough assignment."*

Second: Slippery slope; WestportNow.com; Gordon Joseloff

Third: Tribute to Ben; Branford Eagle; Bill O'Brien

### **Non-Page 1 Layout**

#### ***Regional A***

First: New Haven Register food page; New Haven Register; Lynn Schnier

#### ***Regional B***

No award given

#### ***Magazine***

No award given

### **Page 1 Layout**

#### ***Regional A***

First: A question of dignity; Connecticut Post; Eileen Smith

*"The typography is both elegant and restrained. The design facilitates the main story rather than overwhelming it. And the photograph is remarkable and allowed to play a pronounced role in the storytelling."*

#### ***Regional B***

First: The Sunday Hour Feb. 5, 2017; The Hour; Eileen Smith

Second: It was a heavenly sight; The Day; John Ruddy

#### ***Hyperlocal***

No award given

### **Photo Essay**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Hartford to the homeland: Delivering relief to Puerto Rico; Hartford Courant; Patrick Raycraft

*"Nice moments, good variety."*

Second: Left behind; Hartford Courant; Patrick Raycraft

#### ***Regional B***

First: Eagle transforms swabs to cadets; The Day; Sean D. Elliot

*"Some fun moments, enjoyed the different angles, and emotion."*

Second: Guard deployment; The Day; Dana Jensen

#### ***Magazine***

No award given

#### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Never give up; The Sound; Kelley Fryer

*"There was visual variety and they attempted to photograph all aspects of the story."*

Second: WN on the scene: Suspect flees in Times Square; WestportNow.com; Helen Klisser During

### **Religion**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Uneasy future; Hartford Courant; Jordan Otero Sisson

Second: In parish merger, a clash of cultures; Hartford Courant; Jordan Otero Sisson  
Third: New Haven's St. Brendan Catholic Church sold to rabbinic school; New Haven Register; Ed Stannard

### ***Regional B***

First: Quakers mark a milestone; The Hour; Stephanie Kim  
Second: Signs of religious acceptance; The Chronicle; Heather Lake  
Third: Symbol's meaning subverted; The Hour; Stephanie Kim

### ***Broadcast***

First: Convicted mosque shooter embraces Islam; NBC 30; Keisha Grant, Dave Michnowicz, Garrett Allison, Jon Wardle  
Second: Jewish traditions; News 12; Jim Mennino, Lori Golias, Lauren Fabrizi  
Third: One is by land two is by sea; News 12; Marissa Alter, Andrew Hurley

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: A life-changing experience at Camp Totokett; The Sound; Pam Johnson

### **Reporting Series**

#### ***Regional A***

First: English language learners; The Connecticut Mirror; Jacqueline Rabe Thomas  
Second: Hartford to the homeland: Delivering relief to Puerto Rico; Hartford Courant; Vinny Vella, Patrick Raycraft  
Third: Lessons from next door; The Connecticut Mirror; Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Jake Kara

#### ***Regional B***

First: Ten years since deadly Cheshire home invasion; Record-Journal; Jesse Buchanan, Mike Savino  
Second: Muslims in CT; Stamford Advocate; Liz Skalka  
Third: A region in flux; News-Times; Barry Lytton

#### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Stories of Guilford: Person of the week; Guilford Courier; Pam Johnson  
*"Solid, concise writing backs up the stories of interesting people having an impact on their community. Always great to amplify the stories of people with stories to tell, rather than waiting on the news to come to you."*  
Second: Election reflection; Branford Eagle; Sally E. Bahner

### **Sports Column**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Davina Hernandez struggles for refuge; Hartford Courant; Lori Riley  
*"Well-told story that reminds us how one person's actions can affect so many others, including friends and family."*  
Second: UConn chasing a championship and a conference; Connecticut Post; Brian Koonz  
Third: Familiar, tragic story of addiction; Hartford Courant; Lori Riley

#### ***Regional B***

First: Longway shines in a variety of roles; The Chronicle; Rich Zalusky  
Second: PAPI & CIRCUMSTANCE: State's final football poll should stand on principle; Record-Journal; Bryant Carpenter

#### ***Magazine***

First: Why I'll never stop loving UConn basketball -- men and women; Connecticut Magazine; Michael Lee-Murphy

#### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Friends, family come together to remember Ally and support each other; CollinsvillePress.com; Gerry deSimas, Jr.

### **Sports Feature**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Family's bond; Hartford Courant; Desmond Conner

*"Great reminder that we don't simply write about games, but about the people who play them. Puts a human face on a complex issue."*

Second: Scrambling for solutions; Connecticut Post; Doug Bonjour

Third: A new obsession; Hartford Courant; John Altaville

### ***Regional B***

First: Montville coach tackles grand slam of distance running; The Day; Vickie Fulkerson

Second: Devastation of Hurricane Maria puts Martucci's pro career on hold; The Day; Vickie Fulkerson

Third: Roxbury native and Army reservist pursues Olympic dream to compete in 2018; Register Citizen; Ben Lambert

### ***Magazine***

First: West Haven's Jimmy 'Quiet Storm' Williams carries us with him into the ring; Connecticut Magazine; Michael Lee-Murphy

Second: High as a kite; Seasons Magazine; Patricia Ann Chaffee

Third: Raising the flag; Seasons Magazine; Carol Latter

### ***Broadcast***

First: 26; News 12; Mark Sogofsky, Andrew Hurley, Marissa Alter

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: On the job with: Todd Salamone, golf course superintendent; WestportNow.com; James Lomuscio

*"Good details on underappreciated role of man in charge of golf course maintenance. Good example of an 'on the job' type of article."*

Second: In Memory of Floyd Parness; The Sound; PJ Foti

Third: A home away from home; Wethersfield LIFE; Mara Dresner

### **Sports News**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Crumbling foundations?; Hartford Courant; Dom Amore

Second: Edsall won't sign contract; Hartford Courant; Mike Anthony

Third: UConn sports on outside of big money conferences; Hartford Courant; Mike Anthony

#### ***Regional B***

First: Transgender athlete takes spotlight in girls' meet; The Day; Vickie Fulkerson

#### ***Hyperlocal***

First: In shadow of the chanting discussion, Canton girls shut down Windham; CollinsvillePress.com; Gerry deSimas, Jr.

Second: North Haven football supports Amelia DePino in her battle against leukemia; North Haven Courier; Chris Piccirillo

Third: Morgan Boys' soccer reaches Class S final by defeating Old Saybrook in PKs; Harbor News; Chris Negrini

### **Sports Photo**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Mid-air pass; Connecticut Post; Christian Abraham

*"Very strong, compelling image. Great caption."*

Second: Guilford sweeps season series from Hand; New Haven Register; Arnold Gold

#### ***Regional B***

First: Goalie hero; The Day; Sean D. Elliot

*"Wonderful, joyful celebration image with a very clean background."*

Second: Incomplete pass; Stamford Advocate; Matthew Brown

Third: To the floor; The Day; Dana Jensen

### ***Hyperlocal***

First: Out at home plate; The Source; Kelley Fryer

*“Great peak moment captured. Love seeing the background of the umpire and teammates watching.”*

Second: Airborne; Greenwich Time; Tyler Sizemore

Third: Get outta my way; Branford Eagle; Bill O'Brien

### **Video Storytelling**

#### ***Regional A***

First: Hartford to the homeland: Delivering relief to Puerto Rico; Hartford Courant; Patrick Raycraft, Vinny Vella

Second: Less access to health services, programs in rural areas take toll; Connecticut Health I-Team; Carl Jordan Castro

#### ***Regional B***

First: WiredZone: Waterford-Stonington Play for the Cure softball; The Day; Peter Huoppi

*“Excellent production value and an important community-based story made this entry stand out from the pack.”*

Second: Celebrating 150 years at the Record-Journal; Record-Journal; Pete Paguaga, Richie Rathsack

Third: Westerly Morris men celebrate spring atop Lantern Hill; The Day; Peter Huoppi

#### ***Broadcast***

First: 26; News 12; Mark Sogofsky

*“This was a heartwarming and well-done story. Good technique immerses the viewer in the action at the ice arena, right down to the sound of Jonathan peeling off the stickers for his helmet. I especially appreciated the character development – Jonathan, Josephine and Michelle were each well-developed characters in their own right. Well-done narrative.”*

Second: A month after Maria, efforts to bring clean water to remote parts of Puerto Rico; WNPR; Ryan Caron King

### ***Hyperlocal***

No award given

## **Stephen A. Collins Public Service Award**

**Stephen A. Collins** had a life-long devotion to newspapers that began at age 9 when he was a delivery boy for the Danbury *News-Times*. He later became a high school correspondent for the newspaper. At the age of 32, he was named editor of the paper, earning the distinction of being the youngest editor in the state. He later was named editorial director, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. Collins was born in Danbury and was well-known throughout the state for his pioneering work on the state Freedom of Information Act. He was a longtime SPJ FOI chairman. He died in February, 1986 at the age of 69.

This is a special award open to all media for a story or stories having a significant impact in the public interest. Entries must include supporting documentation such as letters, editorials, evidence of a change in public policy, etc. showing how the entry had an impact.

#### ***Winner***

Hartford schools: More separate, still unequal; Hartford Courant; Vanessa de la Torre, Matthew Kauffman, Kathleen Megan

#### ***Judges' comments:***

*This reporting incorporates a broad range of interviews and data to tell an important story about seemingly failed efforts to desegregate schools. The reporters employ graphics and multimedia to tell the story. This package emerged from a very tight and competitive field. This was an extremely deep category with a number of entries delving into a range of important public service stories. All the entrants should be proud of producing strong public service journalism.*



## Theodore A. Driscoll Investigative Award

**Theodore A. Driscoll III** began his career with the *Hartford Courant* in 1965 as a city hall reporter. After many years on that beat, he went on to become the paper's first full-time investigative reporter. He covered a broad range of topics, but his investigation on widespread corruption into the jai alai industry in the late 1970s was his most significant work. Driscoll was born in Westport, attended Colby College in Waterville, Maine and graduated from the University of Connecticut. In 1975, Driscoll helped found Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. He died in December, 1988 at the age of 50.

This award recognizes a single story or formal series containing information, obtained through reporter initiative, not readily available to the news media or public.

### *Winner*

Capital Prep lottery investigation; *Hartford Courant*; Vanessa de la Torre, Matthew Kauffman

### *Judges' comments:*

*The reporters went to extraordinary lengths to interview sources and gave the accused an opportunity to respond to their reporting, and did a great job explaining the issues to an outsider who may be unfamiliar with Connecticut schools and the role of sports in those schools and beyond. The reporting captured multiple perspectives on the controversy surrounding recruitment.*

## First Amendment Award

A single story, column or series which increases public understanding of the role of the press in a free society.

### *Winner*

Surveillance video, records offer new perspective on UConn student's 2016 death; *Hartford Courant*; Vinny Vella, Matthew Kauffman

### *Judges' comments:*

*Now more than ever, enhancing the public view of the press is an act worth recognizing. The Courant piece demonstrates the power of the press to shed light in ways that citizens alone rarely can. For Jeffny Pally, for her family and friends, for the UConn community, and for the citizens of Hartford, the Courant used its power to hold public officials accountable for actions that might have otherwise, and easily, been under-examined. I can hardly put it better than John Ferraro did in his submission: "We had an obligation to provide the public with a full understanding of how our government employees conduct themselves."*

*But this piece also shows the responsibility of the press, not just its power. The Courant had raw footage of a young woman's death. It would have been easy to publish the video in its entirety and draw web traffic in droves to view something so grotesque. The Courant quite purposefully did not. They showed only the footage that was necessary for understanding.*