

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Each year, the Connecticut pro chapter of SPJ recognizes the best in Connecticut journalism in its Excellence in Journalism Contest.

This year's entries showcase the important work being done by journalists across the state. Despite the challenges of the past few years, Connecticut journalists continue to show up, hold public officials accountable and inform the public about their communities.

This contest also supports the mission of CTSPJ as our biggest fundraiser. The board continues to support journalists through professional development programming -- most recently at the SPJ Region 1 Conference we co-hosted with Roger Williams University, which brought more than 100 journalists to Rhode Island for two days of programming.

We also give out thousands of dollars in scholarships to journalism students in or from Connecticut each year, and support other efforts, such as the Legal Defense Fund, CCFOI and CFOG.

We normally hand out the certificates at a spring or summer event. Instead, this year, we are planning a networking event for the fall, so we are announcing the winners here. All certificates will be mailed to the winners' newsrooms, unless otherwise requested.

We thank you for your support. If you'd like to become more involved in the board and our activities, reach out to any of the board members listed below.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Martha Shanahan, chair
Jodie Mozdzer Gil, past president
Jordan Fenster
Kathleen Farmer, contest clerk

All certificates will be mailed to the address on record. If you would like to request a different address, please email Jodie Mozdzer Gil at jmozdzer@gmail.com

CTSPJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-23

President - Lindsay Boyle
Vice President, Programming - Jordan Fenster
Vice President, Communications - Ayah Galal
Treasurer - Bruno Matarazzo
Secretary - Jeniece Roman
Immediate Past President - Viktoria Sundqvist
Darren Sweeney
Mercy Quaye
Chandra Bozelko
Michael Savino
Martha Shanahan

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



ALL-MEDIA SPECIAL AWARDS

STEPHEN A. COLLINS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Story or stories having a significant impact in the public interest.

When schools use force

Hearst CT Media
Emilie Munson, Matt Rocheleau, Alex Putterman,
Libby Seline, Alexandra Kanik

Judges said...

“If a mother, working in that very school and mere steps away, can’t protect her child from being forcibly confined in a bathroom, from suffering the trauma inflicted on countless children in schools across the nation due to underexamined and overemployed strategies for “restraint,” then who can? That answer may well be the staff of Hearst Connecticut, who are most deserving of this year’s Stephen A. Collins Public Service Award. Their months of painstaking investigation—including analysis of data that needed an audience and reporting on the stories that needed to be told—has provided a service to many. Parents have tools to be better advocates for their children. Teachers have information on different, less harmful approaches. And lawmakers are more aware of the legislative gaps that allow harm and even death in our schools. But most of all, children—especially children with disabilities and children of color—are safer because of this labor taken on by Hearst CT.”

THEODORE DRISCOLL AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

A single story or series containing information obtained through reporter initiative, not readily available to the news media or public.

Investigative coverage of wrongdoing at Connecticut State Police

Hearst CT Media
Bill Cummings

Judges said...

“The comprehensive nature of this wealth of reporting on abuses by Connecticut law enforcement — an issue that potentially impacts nearly everyone in the state — is what makes this entry stand out as the most consequential investigative package of the year. Congratulations to the journalists who performed an act of real public service for Connecticut.”

FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

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

CSP records transparency

NBC Connecticut
Len Besthoff, David Mulligan,
Garett Allison, Katherine Loy

Judges said...

“It’s refreshing to see local news engage in such thorough reporting employing public records and documenting the circuitous road they took to get access to some of these records. The final product incorporated the records they could get and highlight the ones they could not. The package tells a newsworthy story involving police and raises some important questions about what happened on the roads that night.”

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hyperlocal

First Place

A shepherd, a showman, and so much more; Guilford Courier; Pam Johnson

Second Place

When you say American cuisine, what do you mean?; The Source; Pem McNerney

Third Place

Helen Keller students return to the stage with live production of 'Annie Jr.'; Easton Courier; Sophie Camizzi

Regional A

First Place

Punk rock art exhibit rocks MoCA Westport; Hartford Courier; Christopher Arnott

Second Place

Shoe designer to the stars; Hearst CT Media; Jailene Cuevas

Third Place

Fred Parris obit; New Haven Register; Mark Zaretsky

Regional B

First Place

At HSC, memorial mural helps students heal; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Second Place

Women at War draws artists from Ukraine to Eastern Connecticut State University; Connecticut Examiner; Emilia Otte

Third Place

Kiss My Aztec! brings Mexican history to Hartford stage (more or less); Record-Journal; Lau Guzmán

Magazine

First Place

Van Gogh battle; Connecticut Magazine; Michael Catarevas

Second Place

Tragic Hollywood tale; Connecticut Magazine; Randall Beach

Third Place

Creative transaction: Artist recycles raw emotions for creative work; Today Magazine; Bruce Deckert

Broadcast

First Place

Steeling roses; News 12; Ken Kienzle, Annalisa Klebers

Second Place

'The Gospel According to Nikki Giovanni' brings together CT jazz musician and iconic American poet; WNPR; Diane Orson

Third Place

Amanda's voice; News 12; Mark Sudol, Mark Sogofsky

BREAKING NEWS

Hyperlocal

First Place

Voters re-elect Hughes, Scott and Hwang; Easton Courier; Easton Courier Staff

Second Place

One dead in Branford Motel shooting; The Sound; Pam Johnson

Regional A

First Place

Two police officers killed, one seriously injured in 'ambush' shooting in Bristol; Hartford Courier; Mike Mavredakis, Taylor Hartz, Kellie Love

Second Place

Richard Dabate sentenced to 65 years in 'Fitbit murder' of wife; Hartford Courier; Taylor Hartz

Third Place

Naugatuck police apprehend Christopher Francisquini; Hartford Courier; Mike Mavredakis

Broadcast

First Place

Alex Jones jury verdict breaking news coverage; WNPR; Frankie Graziano, Patrick Skahill, Cassie Basler, John Henry Smith, Matt Dwyer, Camila Vallejo, Lori Mack, Jeni Ahrens, Sabrina Herrera, Eric Aasen, Mark Mirko, Julianne Varacchi

Second Place

Fallen Bristol officers; News 12; Lauren Fabrizi, Brian Pcolar, Mark Sogofsky, Sara Gibek

BUSINESS

Hyperlocal

First Place

'The theater belongs to the community'; The Source; Pem McNerney

Second Place

The Spinning Wheel Inn – the Tottle years, 1925-1972; Easton Courier; Bruce Nelson

Third Place

The colorful history of Snow's Farm; Easton Courier; Jane Paley, Rick Falco

Regional A

First Place

Tax credits to film companies have cost CT hundreds of millions. Are they worth it?; Connecticut Mirror; Erica E. Phillips

Second Place

Demand for nurses is urgent & CT's colleges and universities can't keep up; Connecticut Mirror; Erica E. Phillips

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Third Place

What can still go right for M&T Bank after early stumble; Hearst CT Media; Paul Schott

Regional B

First Place

Who needs a will?; Stamford Advocate; Julie Jason

Second Place

Insight into the complicated rules of inheriting an IRA; Stamford Advocate; Julie Jason

Magazine

First Place

Healthy growth: Athletic Brewing expands to Milford as nonalcoholic beer trend takes off; New Haven Biz; Liese Klein

Second Place

Chelsea Groton Bank reinvents branches, hosts classes to attract in-person visits, boost business; New Haven Biz; Michelle Tuccitto Sullo

Third Place

100 year biz club; Today Magazine; Vincenzo Frosolone, Bruce Deckert

Broadcast

First Place

Made in Connecticut: Bells; News 12; Becky Surran, Frank Bruce

CONTINUING COVERAGE

Hyperlocal

First Place

Deer Lake coverage; Shoreline Times; Sue Braden, Sarah Page Kyrzczak

Second Place

Republican Town Committee Caucus controversy, petition, and lawsuit; Easton Courier; Ann Marie Somma

Regional A

First Place

Hospital consolidation in Connecticut remakes the health care landscape; Connecticut Mirror; Erica E. Phillips, Katy Golvala, Dave Altimari

Second Place

Sandy Hook remembrance; Hartford Courant; Lori Riley, Christopher Keating, Taylor Hartz

Third Place

Bristol police shooting; Hearst CT Media; Peter Yankowski, Christine Dempsey, Jess Leavenworth, John Moritz, Richard Chumney, Lisa Backus

Regional B

First Place

Former Democratic Chair faces multiple charges in Stamford ballot fraud case; Connecticut Examiner; Angela Carella

Second Place

A pattern of authoritarian overreach in the Old Saybrook Police Commission; Connecticut Examiner; Emilia Otte

Third Place

Legal dispute over Meriden nonprofits' tax exempt status continues; Record-Journal; Michael Gagne, Mary Ellen Godin

Broadcast

First Place

Out of state, out of mind: Hartford's problem with landlords; WFSB; Sam Smink

Second Place

New Haven man injured while in police custody; NBC Connecticut; Jamie Ratliff, Nicholas Doscher, Bryan McIndoe, Josh Perkins

Third Place

'Hero pay' headaches; NBC Connecticut; Caitlin Burchill, Steve Pancione

COURTS/CRIME

Hyperlocal

First Place

Judge kills proposed slaughterhouse on Tranquility Drive; Easton Courier; Ann Marie Somma

Second Place

Judge throws out lawsuit filed by five residents against state Republican Committee; Easton Courier; Ann Marie Somma

Regional A

First Place

Confronting Alex Jones; Hearst CT Media; John Moritz

Second Place

Lawyer at a crossroads; Hearst CT Media; Rob Ryser

Third Place

Connecticut has more than 1,000 cold cases; Hartford Courant; Edmund H. Mahony

Regional B

First Place

Advocates call expunging records a first step to repairing damage from war on drugs; Connecticut Examiner; Sophia Muce

Second Place

Looking for closure; News-Times; Kendra Baker

Third Place

Jury concerns; Stamford Advocate; Pat Tomlinson

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Magazine

First Place

Fighting fraud: Making sure your money goes toward your investments; New Haven Biz; Michelle Tuccitto Sullo

Broadcast

First Place

Pain never fades; News 12; Shosh Bedrosian, Christopher Wood

Second Place

Curbing catalytic converter crime; NBC Connecticut; Len Besthoff, David Mulligan, Garrett Allison

Third Place

K9 trainer arrested for alleged animal abuse; NBC Connecticut; Nicholas Doscher, Jamie Ratliff

DATA

Regional A

First Place

Air travel disruptions at Connecticut-area airports; Hearst CT Media; Taylor Johnston

Second Place

Where did the wealthy go?; Hearst CT Media; Amy Coval

Broadcast

First Place

Connecticut COVID data: Your town's infection rate, hospitalizations & vaccinations; WNPR; Patrick Skahill

Second Place

Walk, cycle, ride, drive: Keeping the roads safe for everyone; WSHU; Tom Kuser, Ann Lopez, Fatou Sangare

DIVERSITY COVERAGE

Hyperlocal

First Place

Darien's gay pastors on acceptance; Darien Times; Raga Justin

Second Place

Cemetery Committee exploring historic designation for burial ground; Easton Courier; Molly Bruton, Ann Marie Somma

Regional A

First Place

CT parents, students call for school anti-racism policies; Connecticut Mirror; Ginny Monk

Second Place

Why Asian Americans' impact is growing in CT politics; Hearst CT Media; Paul Schott

Third Place

CT aims to build disability workforce 'pipeline'; Connecticut Mirror; Erica Phillips

Regional B

First Place

High cost, flood of applicants cut small business out of Connecticut's marijuana lottery; Connecticut Examiner; Emilia Otte

Second Place

A push to extend Husky to all ages of undocumented immigrants; Connecticut Examiner; Emilia Otte

Third Place

Norwalk's first Haitian council member; The Hour; Abigail Brone

Magazine

First Place

Minority-owned business support network is growing, but entrepreneurs say more is needed; New Haven Biz; Michelle Tuccitto Sullo

Second Place

First African American history museum; Connecticut Magazine; Randall Beach

Broadcast

First Place

This teen fled Afghanistan for Connecticut. Her family still needs help to escape.; WNPR; Camila Vallejo

Second Place

After 200 years, Dartmouth returns papers of Native American who helped establish the college; WNPR; Diane Orson

Third Place

Evictions could top pre-COVID numbers, hit vulnerable communities hardest; WNPR; Camila Vallejo

EDITORIAL

Regional B

First Place

An honest conversation about the costs of COVID; Connecticut Examiner; Gregory Stroud

Second Place

Protest brings game back to 4th inning; Record-Journal; Jeffery Kurz

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Regional B

First Place

Republicans get new stamp; Record-Journal; Kevin Markowski

Second Place

Wallingford sidewalks make for challenging hopscotch; Record-Journal; Kevin Markowski

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



EDUCATION

Hyperlocal

First Place

Program at Helen Keller Middle School makes up for lost learning during Covid; Easton Courier; Kaitlin Katzenback

Second Place

Easton man helps save Ireland's Great Hunger Museum collection; Easton Courier; Ryan Maguire, Ann Marie Somma

Regional A

First Place

How politics derailed mental health care at Killingly High School; Connecticut Mirror; Ginny Monk

Second Place

Uneven playing field; Hearst CT Media; Alex Putterman

Third Place

School start times; New Haven Register; Meghan Friedmann

Regional B

First Place

Co-Op teacher tapped for Grammy shortlist; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Second Place

Waterford Country School; Connecticut East This Week; Brian Scott-Smith

Third Place

Stamford Ukrainian school upholds language and traditions amidst worries about war; Connecticut Examiner; Emilia Otte

Magazine

First Place

Career educator rides into sunset; Today Magazine; Chloe Kieper

Second Place

Teen forgoes college debt, takes biz plunge; Today Magazine; Elijah Livingston

Broadcast

First Place

Connecticut teens look to neighboring town as a model for mental health help; WNPR; Catherine Shen

Second Place

Private school privacy - school safeguards; NBC Connecticut; Len Besthoff, David Mulligan, Garrett Allison, Katherine Loy, Lorraine Roe

Third Place

Connecticut partners with tribal nations to develop Native American curriculum; WSHU; Jeniece Roman

FEATURE PHOTO

Hyperlocal

First Place

North Pole bound; Valley Courier; Wesley Bunnell

Second Place

Helen Keller Middle School students perform the song 'NYC' from the musical 'Annie Jr.'; Easton Courier; Sophie Camizzi

Regional A

First Place

Sandy Hook parent Scarlett Lewis; Hearst CT Media; H. John Voorhees III

Second Place

Flying above; New Haven Register; Arnold Gold

Third Place

Refugee family nurtures culture in Hartford community garden; Connecticut Health I-Team; Patrick Raycraft

Regional B

First Place

Awash in color; Greenwich Time; Christian Abraham

Second Place

Meriden's first female deputy fire chief sworn in during ceremony; Record-Journal; Richie Rathsack

Third Place

Grinch arrested; Greenwich Time; Tyler Sizemore

Magazine

First Place

Sunrise symphony; Today Magazine; Tom Cameron

Second Place

Aerial humdinger; Today Magazine; Wendy Rosenberg

Broadcast

First Place

Mid-autumn festival; WNPR; Joe Amon

FEATURE STORY

Hyperlocal

First Place

From Afghanistan to Branford: Sadast supported by Branford volunteers; The Sound; Pam Johnson

Second Place

Music saved his life; The Source; Pem McNerney

Regional A

First Place

One million lobster traps; Hearst CT Media; John Moritz

Second Place

Meet the Yale student banned from gambling; Hearst CT Media; Alex Putterman

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Third Place

Miracle man; New Haven Register; Meghan Friedmann

Regional B

First Place

Recovery coach's lived experience helps others fight addiction; Record-Journal; Cris Villalonga-Vivoni

Second Place

A light that cannot be extinguished: City librarian John Jessen dies at 56; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Third Place

Wallingford group keeps Christmas ornament swap going for 50 years; Record-Journal; Mary Ellen Godin

Magazine

First Place

Captain zero; Connecticut Magazine; Rand Richards Cooper

Second Place

The lost continents of the Connecticut River; Estuary Magazine; Eric D. Lehman

Third Place

Fresh off TV debut, pro cleaner Sadie Marshall sees growth opportunity in crime scenes; New Haven Biz; Jean Falbo Sosnovich

Broadcast

First Place

Gabby and Bravo; WFSB; Patricia Del Rio

Second Place

911 operator helps woman save husband's life; WFSB; Patricia Del Rio

Third Place

See the beauty; News 12; Shosh Bedrosian, Christopher Wood

GENERAL COLUMN

Hyperlocal

First Place

School daze; Easton Courier; Dr. Richard Lechtenberg

Second Place

Endangered species; Easton Courier; Bruce Nelson

Regional A

First Place

So, you want to go to Harvard?; Connecticut Mirror; David Holahan

Second Place

Kitchen table; Connecticut Post; Hugh Bailey

Third Place

Supreme antediluvian originalist 'logic'; Connecticut Mirror; David Holahan

Regional B

First Place

After 18 months, is Connecticut's conviction integrity unit functioning at all?; Connecticut Examiner; Chandra Bozelko

Second Place

Dick and Jane: move to Greenwich; Greenwich Time; David Rafferty

Third Place

The trouble with flags in Southington; Record-Journal; Jeffery Kurz

Magazine

First Place

Centenarian cool; Connecticut Magazine; Frank Rizzo

Second Place

Honoring those who served; Connecticut Magazine; Albie Yuravich

GOVERNMENT

Hyperlocal

First Place

Fairfield registrar's problems; Fairfield Citizen; Josh LaBella

Second Place

Judge throws out lawsuit filed by five residents against state Republican Committee; Easton Courier; Ann Marie Somma

Regional A

First Place

CT's government was once broke. Is it now holding too much cash?; Connecticut Mirror; Keith Phaneuf

Second Place

CT may cut hours for 211 emergency housing hotline without more funding; Hearst CT Media; Joshua Eaton

Third Place

New England takes a detour on grid reform; griping ensues; Connecticut Mirror; Jan Ellen Spiegel

Regional B

First Place

Stamford residents push back; Stamford Advocate; Brianna Gurciullo

Second Place

HUD determines City of Meriden violated rules, but will not withhold CDBG funding; Record-Journal; Michael Gagne

Magazine

First Place

Transparent wages: How to avoid running afoul of CT's new salary disclosure law; New Haven Biz; Michelle Tuccitto Sullo

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Second Place

Common ground; Connecticut Magazine; Douglas P. Clement

Third Place

Resolving town center debate; Today Magazine; Terri Wilson, Nora Howard

Broadcast

First Place

Mini-liquor surcharge; NBC Connecticut; Len Besthoff, Garrett Allison, Madeline Wilson, Jonathan Kopeliovich

Second Place

Drive high = DUI; NBC Connecticut; Len Besthoff, Katherine Loy, Garrett Allison

Third Place

Long delays at Connecticut's Freedom of Information Commission leave public in the dark; WNPR; Walter Smith Randolph, Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Jim Haddadin, Maxwell Zeff

HEADLINE

Regional A

First Place

Derby dancing/Rein shower/Drinks bar none; Hearst CT Media; Sue Nusbaum

Regional B

First Place

Deere to his heart/I walk the line/Chick magnet; Greenwich Time; Sue Nusbaum

Magazine

First Place

Toxic haste, Homegrown hope, One route to rule them all; Today Magazine; Bruce Deckert

Second Place

The duke of uke, Ghost kitchens, My sherry amor; Connecticut Magazine; Albie Yuravich

HEALTH

Hyperlocal

First Place

Seeking solutions to mental health crisis; Darien Times; Raga Justin

Second Place

Food, wind, celebrity, depression; The Source; Pem McNerney

Regional A

First Place

Housekeepers know they're essential. They want to get treated like it.; Connecticut Mirror; Katy Golvala

Second Place

A quarter of CT doctors work for big hospitals. Is that good for patients?; Connecticut Mirror; Katy Golvala, Dave Altimari

Third Place

The pandemic changed their lives – and brought them closer together; Connecticut Health I-Team; Patrick Raycraft

Regional B

First Place

Preventing suicide: 'We really all need each other'; Record-Journal; Cris Villalonga-Vivoni

Second Place

Lives 'interrupted' find space to heal; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman, Abiba Biao

Third Place

Taking on cancer with ECHO; Connecticut East This Week; Brian Scott-Smith

Magazine

First Place

Waste land; Connecticut Magazine; David Holahan

Second Place

The most studied patient; Connecticut Magazine; Erik Ofgang

Third Place

Phase two: Biohaven sets sights on new ailments after \$11.6B Pfizer deal; New Haven Biz; Liese Klein

Broadcast

First Place

Institutional knowledge; NBC Connecticut; Len Besthoff, David Mulligan, Garrett Allison

Second Place

The PCP problem: primary care doctor shortage; WFSB; Sam Smink

HUMOROUS COLUMN

Hyperlocal

First Place

Dad, Godzilla, and the great summer road trip; The Source; Juliana Gribbins

Second Place

But it was on sale!; The Source; Rita Christopher

Regional A

First Place

Greatest hits of the far right Supremes; Connecticut Mirror; David Holahan

Second Place

A pandemic of political ads; Connecticut Mirror; David Holahan

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Third Place

Life and death and Eddie Rabbitt; Connecticut Post; Hugh Bailey

Regional B

First Place

Your sex toys are in the mail; Greenwich Time; David Rafferty

Second Place

A focus on the training; Record-Journal; Jeffery Kurz

Magazine

First Place

Obsession with PT Barnum's island; Connecticut Magazine; A.H. Saxon

Second Place

New holiday music, please; Connecticut Magazine; Joel Samberg

IN-DEPTH

Hyperlocal

First Place

The history of Easton's zoning & its impact on affordable housing today; Easton Courier; Bruce Nelson

Second Place

Parkside groundbreaking celebrates affordable housing in Branford; The Sound; Pam Johnson

Regional A

First Place

Fighting back: How some CT tenants are organizing to improve their housing; Connecticut Mirror; Ginny Monk, Camila Vallejo

Second Place

The teens who survived Sandy Hook; Hearst CT Media; Sandra Diamond Fox

Third Place

Connecticut's roads are deadlier than ever. Figuring out why is complicated.; Connecticut Mirror; Katy Golvala, Dave Altimari

Regional B

First Place

Report on Meriden teen's death in foster care calls for better record sharing; Record-Journal; Michael Gagne

Second Place

Beyond the binary: Trans community faces barriers to reproductive healthcare; Record-Journal; Cris Villalonga-Vivoni

Third Place

A victim comes forward; News-Times; Shayla Colon

Magazine

First Place

Hidden world of modern-day witches; Connecticut Magazine; Janet Reynolds

Second Place

Shifting landscape: New Haven Food Terminal navigates future in changing Long Wharf district; New Haven Biz; Liese Klein

Third Place

The state of our environment; Connecticut Magazine; David Holahan

Broadcast

First Place

Does a new legal settlement really settle a 30-year-old lawsuit to integrate Hartford's schools?; WSHU; Tom Kuser, Ann Lopez, Fatou Sangare

Second Place

Evictions could top pre-COVID numbers, hit vulnerable communities hardest; WNPR; Camila Vallejo

Third Place

Expectant mother grappling with car theft as social media trend continues; NBC Connecticut; Caitlin Burchill, Steve Pancione

INFOGRAPHIC

Regional A

First Place

Pizza trip; Hearst CT Media; Bryan Haeffele

Regional B

First Place

Brunswick School properties; Greenwich Time; Bryan Haeffele

Magazine

First Place

Math of trash; Connecticut Magazine; Greg Moody

INNOVATIVE DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Regional A

First Place

CT's devastating hurricanes; Hearst CT Media; John Moritz, Derek Turner

Second Place

Weekend on the shore; Hearst CT Media; Leeanne Griffin, Martha Shanahan

Third Place

Hiking Connecticut; Hearst CT Media; Lindsay Boyle, Andrew DaRosa, Jordan Fenster, Joe Tucci

Regional B

First Place

Stamford over the years; Stamford Advocate; Veronica Del

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Valle, Derek Turner

Second Place

CT or NY? Living on the border; Greenwich Time; Robert Marchant

Magazine

First Place

Best new restaurants; Connecticut Magazine; Lidia Ryan

Broadcast

First Place

BIPOC farmers; WNPR; Patrick Skahill, Mark Mirko

Second Place

Motion graphics composite; NBC Connecticut; Nicholas Doscher

INVESTIGATIVE

Regional A

First Place

Why half of affordable housing vouchers in CT go unused: 'A slamming door in my face'; Hearst CT Media; Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Emily DiSalvo

Second Place

Stefanowski's Saudi ties; Hearst CT Media; Julia Bergman, Alex Putterman, Joshua Eaton

Third Place

Manager at CT State Pier recommended itself for \$87M in contracts; Connecticut Mirror; Andrew Brown

Regional B

First Place

Pandemic led to spike in domestic violence as funding for services fell; Record-Journal; Michael Gagne

Second Place

Meriden agency's rehousing program crucial to domestic violence survivors; Record-Journal; Michael Gagne

Magazine

First Place

War on a distant shore; Today Magazine; Bruce Deckert

Broadcast

First Place

Marijuana dispensaries planned to give thousands to Connecticut charities. Some never got a dime.; WNPR; Jim Haddadin, Walter Smith Randolph

Second Place

What's the deal with CT bear policies?; NBC Connecticut; Caitlin Burchill, Garrett Allison, Katherine Loy, Angela Fortuna

Third Place

Private school privacy - AOF voyeur; NBC Connecticut; Len Besthoff, David Mulligan, Garrett Allison, Katherine Loy

LEISURE

Hyperlocal

First Place

Goat walks and animal talks at Blue Button Farm; Easton Courier; Jane Paley

Second Place

A place for history; Easton Courier; Elizabeth Boyce

Regional A

First Place

Hot vs. cold lobster rolls; Hearst CT Media; Leanne Griffin

Second Place

CT beverage creators; Hearst CT Media; Leanne Griffin

Third Place

Indiana Jones of CT; Hearst CT Media; TinaMarie Craven

Regional B

First Place

Sailing the world; Stamford Advocate; Brianna Gurciullo

Magazine

First Place

Reality refuge; Today Magazine; James Q. Rice

Broadcast

First Place

Staying cool in the heatwave; NBC Connecticut; Nicholas Doscher, Jamie Ratliff

Second Place

Wilton teen builds his own rickshaw; News 12; Suzanne Goldklang, Frank Bruce

LOCAL REPORTING

Hyperlocal

First Place

Food deserts in CT; Westport News; Kayla Mutchler

Second Place

Residents air brewery concert noise concerns; The Sound; Pam Johnson

Third Place

From Kyiv to Westport; Westport News; Kayla Mutchler

Regional A

First Place

Why West Hartford pedestrians feel unsafe; Hearst CT Media; Michael Walsh

Second Place

Fighting back; New Haven Register; Meghan Friedmann

Third Place

Enforcement questions; New Haven Register; Brian Zahn

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Regional B

First Place

Pairing specialists, first responders shows promise in fighting opioid deaths in Meriden; Record-Journal; Cris Villalonga-Vivoni

Second Place

At NXTHVN community meeting, it's all eyes on Goffe Street court; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Third Place

The mayor of Westville: New Haven mourns, remembers Semi Semi-Dikoko; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Magazine

First Place

Hometown hero; Today Magazine; Christopher DeFrancesco

Second Place

Creative transaction: Artist recycles raw emotions for creative work; Today Magazine; Bruce Deckert

Third Place

Shifting demand: Science Park's latest evolution — a neighborhood; New Haven Biz; Liese Klein

Broadcast

First Place

Rent paid, still evicted: The COVID-era rise of no-fault evictions in Connecticut; WNPR; Camila Vallejo, Jacqueline Rabe Thomas

Second Place

Ice cream parlor sabotaged; NBC Connecticut; Nicholas Doscher, Jamie Ratliff

Third Place

Fairfield Beach residents face months-long battle with unordinary rotten smell from waste facility; WNPR; Bria Lloyd

NEWS PHOTO

Hyperlocal

First Place

Easton's own Anne Fiyalka takes to the sky; Easton Courier; Rick Falco, Kaitlin Katzenback

Second Place

Annual trunk or treat draws a crowd; Easton Courier; CJ Calcinari

Third Place

Easton firefighters donate to historic Union Cemetery; Easton Courier; Rick Falco, Juliana Levin

Regional A

First Place

Mourning a murdered baby; Waterbury Republican-American; Jim Shannon

Second Place

Dad leaving funeral; Hearst CT Media; H. John Voorhees III

Third Place

I-95 crash; Connecticut Post; Christian Abraham

Regional B

First Place

Working on wires from helicopter; Record-Journal; Dave Zajac

Second Place

Principal slimed; Greenwich Time; Tyler Sizemore

Third Place

Proud father hugs graduating son; Record-Journal; Dave Zajac

Broadcast

First Place

Bristol police funeral; WNPR; Joe Amon

NON-PAGE 1 LAYOUT

Regional A

First Place

Sunday Focus cover: Back from the brink; Waterbury Republican-American; Jim Flynn

Second Place

All star pups; Hearst CT Media; Bryan Haeffele

Third Place

Sunday Focus cover: Buffering; Waterbury Republican-American; Jim Flynn

Magazine

First Place

Cool cocktails; Connecticut Magazine; Greg Moody

Second Place

Planet CT; Connecticut Magazine; Greg Moody

PAGE 1 LAYOUT

Regional A

First Place

Mission Ukraine; New Haven Register; Sue Nusbaum

Second Place

Page one: Oct. 16, 'So much grief'; Waterbury Republican-American; Jim Flynn

Third Place

Official concern; New Haven Register; Sue Nusbaum

Regional B

First Place

Who paid what, where; Greenwich Time; Sue Nusbaum

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Magazine

First Place

Made in CT; Connecticut Magazine; Greg Moody

Second Place

The environment; Connecticut Magazine; Greg Moody

Third Place

Landing place; Today Magazine; Bruce Deckert

PHOTO ESSAY

Hyperlocal

First Place

Snowy night for the North Pole Express; Valley Courier; Wesley Bunnell

Second Place

Easton's own Anne Fiyalka takes to the sky; Easton Courier; Kaitlin Katzenback, Rick Falco, Ann Marie Somma and Jane Paley

Third Place

Easton Fireman's Carnival in full swing; Easton Courier; Sophie Camizzi

Regional A

First Place

Making a home away from war; Connecticut Mirror; Yehyun Kim

Second Place

On a CT farm, 100 migrant workers spend months living, cooking and harvesting tobacco together; Hartford Courant; Douglas Hook

Third Place

Refugee family nurtures culture in Hartford community garden; Connecticut Health I-Team; Patrick Raycraft

Magazine

First Place

Visions from the Deep; Connecticut Magazine; Bob Degoursey

Second Place

Caring catbirds; Today Magazine; Wendy Rosenberg

PODCASTING

Regional A

First Place

Jim Mora on the Meat Grinder; Hearst CT Media; Pete Paguaga, Sean Bowley

Regional B

First Place

The firefighters of Jewett City Fire Department; Connecticut East This Week; Brian Scott-Smith

Second Place

3rd grade teacher and student reunion; Connecticut East This Week; Brian Scott-Smith

Third Place

Remembering gold star mothers and families; Connecticut East This Week; Brian Scott-Smith

Broadcast

First Place

Still Newtown; WSHU; Davis Dunavin

Second Place

Higher Ground; WSHU; J.D. Allen, Sabrina Garone, Harriet Jones

RELIGION

Hyperlocal

First Place

Darien's gay pastors on acceptance; Darien Times; Raga Justin

Regional A

First Place

The first gay Episcopal bishop of Connecticut is set to be consecrated.; Hartford Courant; Ed Stannard

Second Place

Jehovah's Witnesses in Connecticut and around the world get back on the road; Hartford Courant; Don Stacom

Regional B

First Place

Amidst invasion, St. Michael's prays for peace in Ukraine; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Second Place

At Iftar, food & memories span continents; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Third Place

Ramadan rituals reborn at UNH; Arts Paper; Lucy Gellman

Broadcast

First Place

Preserving memories; News 12; Jim Mennino, Marissa Alter

REPORTING SERIES

Hyperlocal

First Place

History corner series; Easton Courier; Bruce Nelson, Elizabeth Boyce

Regional A

First Place

The tragedy at Sandy Hook: 10-year remembrance; Hartford Courant; Hartford Courant staff

Second Place

Bridgeport violence project; Connecticut Post; Bill Cummings, Ethan Fry, Brian Lockhart

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



Third Place

Notice to quit; Connecticut Mirror; Ginny Monk

Magazine

First Place

Reality refuge; Today Magazine; James Q. Rice, Put Brown, Christine Graesser, Laura Hart, Francie Brown Holmes, Rick Orluk, Stephen "Phil" Philbrick, Margery Winterse

SPORTS COLUMN

Regional A

First Place

UConn's special fan; Hearst CT Media; Mike Anthony

Second Place

Louise O'Neal, who died on Sept. 17, was a Hall of Famer and women's basketball pioneer; Hartford Courant; Lori Riley

Third Place

Video of a tragedy highlights need for openness; Hearst CT Media; Jeff Jacobs

Regional B

First Place

The ruin of college football; Greenwich Time; David Rafferty

Second Place

A new pitch for baseball; Greenwich Time; David Rafferty

Magazine

First Place

CT still loves the Whalers; Connecticut Magazine; David Holahan

SPORTS FEATURE

Hyperlocal

First Place

Two lives well lived- Coach Profetto & Rose; Easton Courier; Bruce Nelson

Regional A

First Place

UConn's reluctant star; Hearst CT Media; Maggie Vanoni

Second Place

Avon field hockey's Kaylie Murphy scores goal no one on the field will ever forget; Hartford Courant; Lori Riley

Third Place

Introducing the Hartford Brailers; Hartford Courant; Dom Amore

Regional B

First Place

Stamford Bocce League looks to the future as contract for Scalzi Park set to expire Oct. 31; Connecticut Examiner; Angela Carella

Magazine

First Place

Middletown's little known baseball team; Connecticut Magazine; Christopher Hoffman

Second Place

En garde; Today Magazine; Bruce Deckert

Broadcast

First Place

Tyler Kolek meets Tyler Kolek; NBC Connecticut; Matt Finkel

Second Place

Back on track; News 12; Jim Mennino, Marissa Alter

SPORTS NEWS

Hyperlocal

First Place

Falcons force turnover, score TD in final three minutes to beat Mills, 26-25; CollinsvillePress.com; Gerry deSimas, Jr.

Second Place

JBWA hockey wins conference championship; Easton Courier; Madison Tomas, Ann Marie Somma

Third Place

All eyes on Matt Scott as Barlow takes down Westhill in season opener; Easton Courier; Robert Finzio, Ann Marie Somma

Regional A

First Place

Roster movement and the WNBA; Hearst CT Media; Maggie Vanoni

Second Place

Inside the transfer portal; Hearst CT Media; David Borges

Third Place

Brittney Griner's detainment in Russia reaches 150-day mark; Hartford Courant; Lila Bromberg

Regional B

First Place

Historic finish lifts Connecticut past Sky and into WNBA finals; CollinsvillePress.com; Gerry deSimas, Jr.

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



SPORTS PHOTO

Hyperlocal

First Place

Victory under a harvest moon; Guilford Courier; Wesley Bunnell

Second Place

Major leagues prospect Matt Scott delivers a pitch for Joel Barlow Falcons; Easton Courier; Robert Finizio

Regional A

First Place

Little players; New Haven Register; Arnold Gold

Second Place

Leaping coach; Hearst CT Media; Dave Stewart

Third Place

Wheelchair basketball; New Haven Register; Arnold Gold

Regional B

First Place

Taking a field hockey shot for a cause; Record-Journal; Dave Zajac

Second Place

Slamming home the first dunk of the night; Record-Journal; Dave Zajac

Broadcast

First Place

UConn wins in double overtime; WNPR; Joe Amon

VIDEO STORYTELLING

Regional A

First Place

One way or another, COVID will get you: Uninfected yet greatly affected by COVID-19; Connecticut Health I-Team; Patrick Raycraft

Second Place

Inside the Warren's cult museum; Hearst CT Media; Daniel Figueroa

Third Place

A day in the life; Hearst CT Media; Pete Paguaga

Broadcast

First Place

The perfect vision | Blind ice hockey in Connecticut; WNPR; David Wurtzel, Mark Mirko, Sam Hockaday

Second Place

Movie stars, jazz icons, water and light: photographer Adger Cowans reflects on his life's work; WNPR; Ryan Caron King, Julianne Varacchi

CTSPJ 2022-23

COLLEGE CONTEST

BREAKING NEWS

First Place

Two QU students arrested, including former men's basketball player Dezi Jones; Quinnipiac Chronicle; The Quinnipiac Chronicle Staff, Q30 Television Staff

Second Place

President Joe is leaving the university; Southern News; Sofia Rositani, Sarah Shelton, Jaylen Carr

Third Place

Quinnipiac agrees to \$2.5 million settlement in COVID tuition refund case; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Melina Khan

EDITORIAL/OP-ED

First Place

I don't speak Spanish, does that make me less Latino?; Quinnipiac Chronicle; David Matos

Second Place

Learn from other countries, don't 'save' them; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Aidan Sheedy

Third Place

I am a woman, not a womb; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Nicole McIsaac

FEATURE

First Place

Rock it at the Roller Derby; Crescent magazine; Sofia Rositani

Second Place

QU medical school allows people to donate bodies after death; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Katie Langley

Third Place

Real Talk: Voices for change; Southern News; GabiTunucci

FEATURE PHOTO

First Place

In this corner: From campus to the boxing ring; Crescent magazine; Tyrese Abdul-Shakoor

Second Place

Move-in day brings new students to campus; Southern News; Sarah Shelton

Third Place

Big Event; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Daniel Passapera

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM CONTEST

2022



GENERAL COLUMN/COMMENTARY

First Place

Crybaby is gone, Melanie Martinez is reborn; Southern News; Sarah Shelton

Second Place

Opinion: You should love yourself this Valentines Day; Southern News; Sarah Shelton

Third Place

How 2022 changed the entertainment industry; Q30 Television; Will Teare, Grace Doyle, Elizabeth Ippolito, Ella Madden

GENERAL REPORTING

First Place

AI programs can produce college papers. Should professors be worried?; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Katie Langley

Second Place

Reaching new heights; Crescent magazine; Gabi Tunucci

Third Place

Hamden rallies for hometown heroes after men's hockey wins championship; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Cat Murphy, Katie Langley

INNOVATIVE DIGITAL STORYTELLING

First Place

Lamont, Stefanowski talk jobs, economy at QU; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Katie Langley, Cat Murphy, Jack Muscatello

NEWS PHOTO

First Place

South Quad construction; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Peyton McKenzie

NON-PAGE 1 LAYOUT

First Place

Exploring all seven continents; Crescent magazine; Fatima Ahmad

Second Place

The Quinnipiac Chronicle, Volume 93, Issue 22 PG. 12; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Ethan Hurwitz, Cameron Levasseur, Benjamin Yeargin, Peyton McKenzie, Melina Khan

Third Place

In this corner: From campus to the boxing ring; Crescent magazine; Malena Araujo

PAGE 1 LAYOUT

First Place

Win-nipiac; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Peyton McKenzie, Melina Khan, Cameron Levasseur, Ethan Hurwitz, Benjamin Yeargin

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

First Place

Capturing NFL players on video; Crescent magazine; Jaylen Carr

Second Place

Quinnipiac hockey alumni react to Bobcats' national championship; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Cameron Levasseur

Third Place

'Never say no': Matthew Batten blazing a path from Quinnipiac to the MLB; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Ethan Hurwitz

SPORTS NEWS STORY

First Place

Quinnipiac downs Minnesota in overtime, claims first national championship in program history; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Cameron Levasseur

Second Place

Jones sets a program record for most assists; Southern News; Jaylen Carr

Third Place

Quinnipiac's first field hockey coach Becca Main announces retirement after 28 seasons; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Ethan Hurwitz

SPORTS PHOTO

First Place

National Championship goal celebration; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Aidan Sheedy

Second Place

Scoring points on campus; Crescent magazine; Luke Molwitz

Third Place

Women's soccer MAAC win celebration; Quinnipiac Chronicle; Daniel Passapera

VIDEO STORYTELLING

First Place

Exploring all seven continents; Crescent magazine; Robert Hahn

Second Place

In this corner: From campus to the boxing ring; Crescent magazine; Tyrese Abdul-Shakoor, Rafaela Martinez

Third Place

Javelin champs; Crescent magazine; Domenick Sollima