

2020 EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS LIST OF WINNERS

DESIGN CATEGORIES

1. Best Magazine Cover

Bronze: *Hawaii Business*; “Olelo Hawai’i”; Kelsey Ige, Aaron Yoshino, Larry Kimura

Use of the native language smartly conveys the central point of the cover story, further supported by the person, the clothes and the artifacts set against a rich, background of native plants. There are layers of sophistication in the typography, with the subject over the masthead, the masthead under the headline. These layers give the cover a nice depth. A harmonious color palette across text and photo adds to the effect.

Silver: *D CEO*; “September: The Business of Pride”; Hamilton Hedrick, Sean Berry

The feel of the cover is elegant, yet contemporary — and of the moment. The use of the black and white image feels on-trend and thoughtful, creating more impact. Beautiful use of typography, especially the justified right cover text and contrast in typefaces.

Gold: *Twin Cities Business*; “Branding Out Loud”; Chris Winn

This stylish and unusual cover photo demands attention. The portrait is an action photo, in profile, which is a different way to catch a reader’s eye. The analogous color choices in the typography and the photo project sophistication. The cover lines are easy to read. The photograph is executed at a high technical level, as seen in the details of the face, hair and overall tonal range.

2. Best Feature Layout - Magazine

Bronze: *dbusiness*; “The Next Gold Rush?”; Austin Phillips

The combination of black with bold colors makes the layout striking. Elements are arranged for easy reading. The mixed-width grid provides an interesting structure and is used effectively. Original illustrations are well done and tie the spreads together visually.

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; “Making Koa Sustainable”; Amy Ngo, David Croxford, Jeff Hawe

A fantastic opening spread beckons readers to look closely and keep going into the story. Unexpected arrangement of the elements on the subsequent pages, including the strong horizontal images, generates a lot of visual interest. Typography is clean and attractive, with nice touches like the large opening letter T that mimics the tree imagery at the heart of the story.

Gold: *D CEO*; “Rising to the Top”; Hamilton Hedrick

This design masterfully juggles an assortment of well-executed portraits, studio photography, product photos and illustrations. The portraits stand out for their technical quality,

environmental settings and strength in conveying personality. Colors coordinate well with the imagery and carry through effectively across multiple spreads. Beautiful typography creates a strong visual hierarchy and ties everything together in a sophisticated way. All the design choices seem thoughtful and carefully planned.

3. Best Overall Design – Magazine

Bronze: *dbusiness*, Austin Phillips and Alex Shammami

Strong covers—from portraits to conceptual—introduce a publication that is professionally designed throughout. Pages have dominance. There’s a good mix of large and small photos. Typography is used to draw readers’ attention. The package “Powered by Women,” demonstrates all these talents together.

Silver: *Hawaii Business*, Kelsey Ige, Amy Ngo and Shana Yoshinaga

This publication has one of the best table of contents in the contest. It is attractive, and it sells the stories, not just lists them. Inside, designers take chances. The October package on the Koa offers a double-truck spread that goes into three vertical double-trucks. Stories are told visually with terrific photography and graphics.

Gold: *D CEO*, Hamilton Hedrick

The successful covers use portraits, illustrations and photo illustration. Inside, there is a beautiful interplay of white space and typographic weights. The “Breaking with Tradition” package shows a mastery of photo usage, white space and typography. This publication sells and tells with style.

4. Best Front Page – Newspaper

Bronze: *BizWest*; “Workforce Woes”; Bernie Simon, Joel Blocker

A dynamic photograph, with sparks flying, immediately attracts attention. The documentary image is sized appropriately and cropped for impact. The overall structure of the page is clean and organized, with clear typographic hierarchy.

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “CCB Forum gun violence front page”; Thomas Linden, Jason McGregor, Brian Stauffer

This striking illustration draws an emotional response, which is accentuated by the somber color palette. Multiple elements are balanced across the page to create a dynamic visual flow. Proper image placement and sizing help keep the eye moving.

Gold: *Crain’s Cleveland Business*; “Winter Culture Guide”; David Kordalski, Stacy Innerst

The color palette for this elegant illustration is restrained, but still eye-catching. Elements are well-positioned and proportioned for impact, and the white space is perfectly balanced around the headline. This cover is lovely, like a serene breath of fresh air.

5. Best Feature Layout – Newspaper

Bronze: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; “Newsmakers of the Year”; David Kordalski

The choice of coloration is interesting and unique. Pull quotes are used to create contrast against a black background and add contrast to the text. There's beautiful work with color throughout the spread, and the entire layout is clean and easy to follow.

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; "Rites of Passage"; Shelly Tabor

The opening family portrait is inviting and full of life, creating a warm connection between the subject and reader. The family tree graphic provides important information while blending well into the layout. Colors are coordinated throughout the spreads, helping to tie together the historical and current visual components.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "20 in their 20s"; Karen Freese Zane

This layout is compelling and difficult to stop looking at. The bold, beautiful color palette enhances the wonderful photographs and bring the subjects to life. Typography is interesting, and there is contrast in size and shape throughout the pages. Every detail is buttoned down in this lovely design.

6a. Best Overall Design – Small Newspapers

Bronze: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; Suzi Drake

Thoughtful covers highlight and display one article, while the side column is clean and helpful. Data is gathered into informative packages in the regular "Economic Indicators" graphics page and the "Real Estate – Shedding Light on the Affordability Gap" package. Overall, the publication is attractive, with inviting typography, large photographs and easy-to-read lists.

Silver: *Daily Herald Business Ledger*; Richard Klicki, Brian Shamie, Rick Kirby

Clean layout and elegant use of photography elevate this entry. Each issue begins with an informative cover and a good table of contents, and overall design is modular and easy to follow. Pullouts are helpful for those who scan pages. "Best Places to Work" is a highlight, with breakout packages and info boxes.

Gold: *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*; Nina Bays, Marci Shrager

Typography is always strong, professional and consistent, particularly with creative headlines. A clean, informative table of contents helps with navigation. The use of small logos and mug shots elevates "The List" section. Original photography is sized and edited well.

6b. Best Overall Design – Medium Newspapers

Bronze: *Mainebiz*; Matt Selva, Peter Van Allen

Clean covers with a dominant photograph or illustration let readers immediately know what they'll find inside. An organized table of contents helps with navigation. Body copy is broken up by subheads, graphics and color. Photographic portraits are a strength.

Silver: *Worcester Business Journal*; Mitchell Hayes

Inside content is easy to read, with open, modular design and restrained typography. "The Younger Crowd" and "Outstanding Women in Business" covers are particularly inviting, and the

Focus package on women continues inside with solid feature design. Large photographs establish dominance on pages.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; Shelly Tabor, Alex Schneider

Wonderful, slick covers grab attention and draw readers into the publication. The attractive, unusual table of contents and solid front of book sections immediately create a presence. Great use of white space, excellent photography, and restrained typography help create clean and appealing design. Particularly elegant designs were “Wish You Were Beer” and “Biz Tracker.”

6c. Best Overall Design – Large Newspapers

Bronze: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; Staff

Slick covers with dominant photographs grab attention and invite readers to open the publication. Charts and maps are done consistently well. A high point is the thoughtful design on the *Fast 25* and *Forefront* inserts. Opinion pages are clean, with cartoons to break up the text.

Silver: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; David Kordalski, Beth Jachman

Overall design is clean and organized with a strong use of typography. Dynamic covers with large photographs and illustrations do a great job of selling the content, particularly the amazing cover wrap for “Power Players.” Inside art is sized well, and photographic packages like “40 Under 40” utilize light, color and white space to elevate the feature.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; Thomas Linden, Jason McGregor, Karen Freese Zane

These issues are a delight to read, with something that says “look at me” on every page. Photographs are always a high point, particularly in the “20 In Their 20’s” and “40 Under Forty” features, both full of personality and energy. There is an excellent mix of illustration and real, documentary photography in the cover story “The Moment is Now.” Graphics are informative, clean, and easy to read, while typography has great color contrast.

7a. Best Use of Photography/Illustrations – Newspapers

Bronze: *Crain’s Cleveland Business*; David Kordalski, Stacey Innerst, Daniel Zakroczemski, Jason Miller, Andrea Ucini

Illustrations displayed a wide variety of professionally produced and executed ideas from different artists. Of particular note is the serene illustration for the winter guide. Visuals are well integrated into the layouts to accentuate meaning and focus the narrative, for example in a *Focus* section story about the “fluttering” confidence in the economy.

Silver: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; David Kordalski

The industrial-inspired concept and quality of a pair of illustrations featuring Superman and Superwoman is outstanding. Another strong conceptual approach is seen in the illustration for the “Seeking a Cure” story. Overall, there is something about each illustration that makes you want to read the story. Illustrations feel seamlessly part of the design, giving added impact.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; Tom Linden, Karen Freese Zane, Jason McGregor

There is excellent breadth in the variety of work, where each element is strong and well-executed, together showing a highly consistent in quality. This translates across all the visual elements of the publication. There are excellent studio portraits, action portraits, documentary images and illustrations contributing to a top-notch visual presentation.

7b. Best Use of Photography/Illustrations – Magazines

Bronze: *Hawaii Business*; Kelsey Ige, Amy Ngo, Shana Yoshinaga, David Croxford, Aaron Yoshino, Tommy Shih, Dino Morrow, Ryan Siphers, Mallory Roe, Megan Spelman, Elyse Butler, Bryson Luke, Drew Lytle, Claire Merchlinsky

These visuals push the envelope. The conceptual portraits are strong. The portraits of children are lovely. Visuals on each page exhibit great effort toward fitting the specific story at hand. There is a wonderful illustration about the environment, and the “Monopoly” illustration is excellent, clearly executed with care and quality. The overall pairing with visuals and narratives highlights an unusual variety of approaches.

Silver: *Insight on Business*; Brian Rasmussen, MaryBeth Matzek, Jessica Thiel

It’s clear a strong effort goes into setting the tone and voice of this publication by using humor in photography. The consistency in clean, crisp portraits shows a focus on quality photography that conveys personality. It takes a high level of coaching to get regular people to display these kinds of emotion and mannerism.

Gold: *D CEO*; Hamilton Hedrick, Morganne Stewart, Sean Berry, Elizabeth Lavin, Trevor Paulhus, Jonathan Zizzo, Chris Plavidal, Brittany Winter, Brandon Lyon, Graeme Montgomery

This entry is full of gorgeous photography, including respectful, magical portraits — from a cowboy to a yoga instructor to the solid series of portraits of successful women. The high level of sophistication is clear from the variety of visual elements that always fit the storyline. When the need arises to be a bit more creative, the photography delivers with a sense of humor, as in “Retail Rebels.”

ONLINE CATEGORIES

8. Best Use of Multimedia

Bronze: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “IBJ Podcast”; Mason King, Lesley Weidenbener

IBJ clearly has shown a serious commitment to this podcast. The Roger Penske interview was a standout and had a nice production value and pace. The podcast feels like it has a voice and is deeply reported. The format pairs well with digital content.

Silver: *Des Moines Business Record*; “The Photo Issue”; Chris Conetzkey, Joe Crimmings, Duane Tinkey

The micro-site was a nice touch. The site doesn’t just show pictures of the wide range of subjects, from a hockey player to a horse handler. It also marries pictures and text to tell the characters’ stories in a way that becomes a destination experience.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; Jason McGregorf, Hugh Dellios, Stephen Serio, Pat Nabong, Claire Bushey, Steve Hendershot

This collection of projects defined the term multimedia in every sense of the word. The interactive graphics, video and art combined for an over-the-top experience. The projects have remarkable consistency and range. The topics covered unique storylines that impacts readers' lives, from the history of water to gun violence to vulnerable workers. Each story was told in the way it deserved. Each of the projects included could have merited a gold award. This entry combined effort and resources that stand above the rest.

9. Best Daily Email

Bronze: *Des Moines Business Record*; "Business Record Daily"; Chris Conetzkey, Emily Barske, John Retzlaff, Kurt Helland

The Business Record Daily is notably reader-friendly in its variety. It stands out by taming the potential chaos of a daily newsletter with a clear hierarchy of information in a variety of different forms, from stock indices to news briefs.

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; "Eight@8"; Mason King

Time pressed readers will love Eight@8's consistent, concise and actionable content. The newsletter's insightful and approachable summaries stood out from the crowd.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; "Morning Roundup"; Lance Turner

This newsletter impresses by being stuffed with content that immediately helps its readership start the day. It presents a variety of information, including market and employment information, news summaries, and upcoming events. Thanks to its thoughtful formatting and quality news judgment, the newsletter is a useful source for people who read every word and also for those who just peruse.

10. Best Specialty E-Newsletter

Bronze: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "Crain's Chicago Business Health Pulse"; Stephanie Goldberg, Jon Asplund

This is a good newsletter that's very scannable. The recommendations and "in case you missed it" features are reader-friendly. It's also easy to find a sign-up for other newsletters.

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; "The Rundown by Lindsey Erdody"; Lindsey Erdody

This is an insightful newsletter that is nicely curated. The author mugshots help to personalize it. The weekly rundown seems like the right frequency for this newsletter. The reporting is solid and thorough.

Gold: *Des Moines Business Record*; "Commercial Real Estate Weekly"; Kathy Bolten, Emily Barske, Kurt Helland

This is a high-quality newsletter. It includes several short stories that are easily scannable. The newsletter has a feel that it's curated and intentional. It has a nice mix of briefs and some national/regional news, as well.

JOURNALISM CATEGORIES

11. Best Scoop

SMALL

Silver: *Vermont Business*; “BioTek to Be Sold for \$1.65 Billion”; Tim McQuiston

Instead of running with the story, and publishing as soon as the details were confirmed, the reporter agreed to an embargo. The company’s grateful management cooperated completely, leading to a much richer, more contextualized story.

Gold: *Corridor Business Journal*; “Is Amazon Coming to Iowa City?”; Adam Moore, Katherine Carlon

Cities large and small courted Amazon, looking to attract the jobs and tax revenue a distribution center could bring. For months, Katherine Carlon followed up on rumors, confirming that these conversations were happening in Iowa City. Months before officials signed contracts or the company announced job postings, she got sources on the record that the online retail giant toured one of the city’s most high-profile – and vacant – warehouse spaces.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Business North Carolina*; “Blue Cross CEO Faces Impaired Driving Charges With Kids Present”; Harrison Miller, David Mildenberg, Taylor Wangbaugh, Ben Kinney

This breaking news story could have been a one-and-done, but after dogged reporting the CEO of North Carolina’s largest insurer was forced to step down following his arrest on impaired driving charges. In more than 10 days of follow-ups, reporters discovered the board’s plan not to disclose the arrest, and the fierce criticism it faced from regulators in not doing so earlier.

Gold: *Journal of Business*; “Electric Car Maker Chooses Spokane”; Natasha Nellis

An unlikely tip turned into a delightful insider’s view of how Spokane attracted a new industry – electric car manufacturing – to the region. The reporter spins a good yarn, introducing each of the players and connecting them through prior relationships to explain how this unexpected deal came to be.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Ambrose Scraps Plan for Waterside Development”; Mickey Shuey, Susan Orr, Lesley Weidenbener

Developing and maintaining close sources within the state government helped to break this story about yet another failed attempt to redevelop a shuttered General Motors plant. Reporters got a tip from a member of the state legislature, and followed it, revealing a \$1.4 billion mixed-use project on the city’s largest piece of available land was no more, once again leaving a one-time economic engine undeveloped.

Gold: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; “Alleva Expected to Step Down as LSU Athletics Director”; Stephanie Riegel

In a college town, few realize the effect a university’s athletic director can have on the local economy. Being the first to report LSU’s Joe Alleva would step down from that position shows the power of building trusted sources willing to take your call day after day.

12. Best Feature

SMALL

Silver: *dbusiness*; “The Next Gold Rush”; Ronald Ahrens

With extensive detail and context, this story provides a detailed look at the challenges facing the fledgling marijuana industry in Michigan. It explores the people who are part of it and what the future holds.

Gold: *Corridor Business Journal*; “UnHired Help”; Dave DeWitte, Adam Moore, Katharine Carlon, Becky Lyons, Julia Druckmiller

This six-part package really digs into Iowa’s worker shortage by reporting on the issue from every angle. It provides context, history and perspectives that are vital to both employers and employees. The material is deeply reported and impactful for the publication’s audience.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Ottawa Business Journal*; “Ottawa’s mid-tier malls face adapt-or-die retail landscapes”; Davide Sali

By giving voice to the smaller businesses affected by mall closures, this story provides a peek at the human struggles that are behind any ailing business sector. The result is a piece with emotion and importance.

Gold: *Virginia Business*; “Rise of the Millennials”; Greg Weatherford

A vital and timely story with a fitting edge to its writing, this feature explores the specific work profile of the millennial generation and its impact on the Virginia workforce. Solid anecdotes from businesses and businesspeople alike make for a lively read.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “Crain’s Forum”; Crain’s staff

In a multiple-story series, the publication breaks down some of the huge issues facing the city of Chicago, including a pension crisis, challenges facing schools and the water supply, the loss of middle-class jobs and more. The stories hit on the importance and history of each of these subjects in well-reported stories that look to the future.

Gold: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; “Broken Trust”; Stephanie Riegel

This feature exemplifies the power of journalism to give voice to the voiceless – in this case, investors who lost life savings in a Ponzi scheme. This is impactful work both shows and explains the story from multiple angles, and in doing so never loses sight of the people at the center of the devastating events.

13. Best Personality Profile

SMALL

Silver: *dbusiness*; “Urban Nutrient”; R.J. King

Here is an engaging portrait of one of Detroit’s most debated entrepreneurs, John Hantz, the mastermind behind an urban tree farm borne by clearing some 2,000 vacant city-owned lots in blighted neighborhoods. A smart and timely recounting of how Hantz’s work has, against great odds, become a model for other cities.

Gold: *South Sound Business*; “Down on the Ranch”; Todd Matthews

A wild, rollicking entrepreneurial journey, this story is a rich and inspiring portrait of Ted Sadtler, the larger-than-life salesman known as the “The Mattress King” who miraculously remakes himself over and over again before ultimately building a solid empire. In this writer’s capable hands, Sadtler’s life is not just a rags to riches story, but a cautionary tale of how hubris and bad timing nearly doomed a great career.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Virginia Business*; “By the Book”; Greg Weatherford

The writer delivers a thoughtful profile of one of Virginia’s top business rainmakers, Stephen Moret, who spearheads the state’s economic development efforts. Instead of a rah-rah feature, Weatherford takes a page from Stephen Covey’s *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, leveraging Moret’s work as an inspirational and practical blueprint for winning in the workplace.

Gold: *Business North Carolina*, “Buddy’s Way”; David Perlmutter, David Mildenberg, Taylor Wanbaugh, Harrison Miller, Ben Kinney, Cathy Martin

A wonderful, well-reported profile on an enigmatic and colorful entrepreneur. Like its reclusive subject, furniture manufacturer Buddy Cheryl, the story shines with an old-school approach: rich detail, elegant style, and a solid structure.

LARGE

Silver: *D CEO*; “The Making of a Movie Mogul”; Barry Shlachter

This story boasts a real-life storyline of greed, glamour and more than a few bad actors. The profile becomes more than a biography of turnaround artist Andy Mitchell, but also an intriguing look behind the scenes at his successful gambit to acquire The Weinstein Company, the Hollywood studio co-founded by Harvey Weinstein.

Gold: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; “Oil in his Blood”; Dustin Walsh

This profile offers a high-octane look at one of motorsport’s most respected figures, CEO of the engineering firm Jack Roush Enterprises. From its first sentence, the story throttles with deft reporting and storytelling and blazes across the finish line with career lessons you won’t easily forget.

14. Best Body of Work, Single Writer

SMALL

Silver: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; Cece Nunn, writer

Showing admirable flexibility, this writer excels at handling tough stories, like race relations and eminent domain, while also serving readers with more traditional business stories

like city repairs and development. Her writing is clear, clean and consistent, with the confidence to lend authority to every piece she authors.

Gold: *dbusiness*; Ronald Ahrens, writer

The writer is a practiced hand on the auto beat, and his work on Autonomous Cars shows deep knowledge of a complicated subject. He also turns a historical profile into an entertaining read, and lends his ability to understand all sides of a story to his take on Michigan's foray into legal marijuana.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Business North Carolina*; Dan Barkin, writer

Variety is the hallmark of this writer, who switches from a complicated profile of a tech CEO, to an insightful look into a personal injury law firm, to a column that allowed readers a glimpse into the inner circle of Raleigh-Durham power brokers. The writer does it all with a straightforward style and fearless honesty.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; Lauren Anderson, writer

Putting a face to the issue is a hallmark of this writer's work. Even on difficult topics, like hiring felons or nursing home care, she finds the right voice to add to the story. Her writing skills breathe new life into formula stories as well, including ones on local history and the business community sentiment.

LARGE

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; Beverly Creamer, staff writer

This portfolio includes several complicated stories including a look at the Jones Act, a bit of maritime law that deeply affects Hawaii's supply chain, and a deep dive into exactly how healthy the islands are. Her work adds value to every topic she touches, including Koa wood and workplace sexual harassment.

Gold: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*, Stephanie Rigel, writer

It's clear the writer is dialed into what's happening in Baton Rouge. This body of work shows that she can scoop the world on an LSU athletics story, while also doing great investigative work, including exposing the graft behind the building of a new mosquito abatement facility. Her column on how Louisiana missed out on a new franchise location because of its business culture is a real-eye opener.

15. Best Recurring Feature

SMALL

Silver: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*, "MADE"; Christina Haley O'Neal

"MADE" is a quick, bright, informative feature that spotlights goods produced in the Greater Wilmington area. Writing is clear and concise, making maximum use of space, while still hitting all the details readers expect to find.

Gold: *Corridor Business Journal*, "Workspaces"; Adam Moore, Katharine Carlon and Julia Druckmiller

Images of striking office spaces showcase the design ingenuity of others, serving both to inspire and satisfy. Concisely worded text blocks deliver just the right amount of context, facts and figures.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Biz New Orleans*, “Making a Match: Businesses and Nonprofits”; Pamela Marquis and Kim Singletary

This feature is a tribute to a terrific idea, solid reporting and classic storytelling. To see how the intersection of business and nonprofit organizations pays off is gratifying enough, but the stories of those who benefit make this feature truly outstanding .

Gold: *Hartford Business Journal*, “Executive Profiles”; Sean Teehan

“Executive Profiles” pays obvious attention to a wide variety of diverse personalities, jobs and professions. In the hands of this capable writer, these deftly executed portraits demonstrate masterful writing and editing.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*, “Mike Lopresti Sports”; Mike Lopresti

For a city that bleeds franchise sports, Mike Lopresti must be a hero and a godsend. His column can only be the result of deep team immersion and Indianapolis devotion. The work reveals a superb sports reporter, historian and storyteller.

Gold: *Hawaii Business*, “The Careerist”; Kathryn Drury Wagner and Rob Donnelly

The quality of advice on workplace issues here is superb and refreshingly original. Whether it’s about updating a resume or navigating a problem with wedding invitations, the writer offers solutions that are candid, thoughtful and altogether delightful.

Category 16: Best Coverage of Local Breaking News

SMALL

Silver: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; “NHRMC to Explore Potential Sale of Hospital”; Vicky Janowski, writer

The potential sale of New Hanover Regional Medical Center, the country’s third-largest county-owned hospital and the Wilmington region’s largest employer, was certainly big news, and the reporter worked quickly not only to report the immediate news but also to place it within the context of the evolving health care industry. Her work demonstrates both hustle and authority.

Gold: *Vermont Business*; “Former Jay Peak President and Owner Indicted for Fraud”; Timothy McQuiston and Brandon Arcari, writers

It took a lot of work for this pair of reporters to untangle the convoluted scheme that the U.S. attorney for Vermont declared might be the largest financial crime in the state’s history and bludgeoned the reputations of four executives, including the president of a popular ski resort, who were indicted on suspicion of defrauding immigrant investors of about \$200 million. This reporting went well beyond news conference statements and delved deep into court records and the executives’ backgrounds to produce a comprehensive set of stories.

MEDIUM

Silver: No award.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; “Hutchinson to Plead Guilty to Accepting Bribes from Orthodontist”; Gwen Moritz, editor

A state senator who already had been caught up in a long-running corruption scandal involving a Medicaid provider of mental health services found himself on the wrong side of federal prosecutors again when they charged him with accepting bribes from a local orthodontist pursuing a legislative agenda and legal favors from the senator. The *Arkansas Business* staff jumped on the new indictment and used previous reporting on the orthodontist’s strange relationship with the senator to add revealing context.

LARGE

Silver: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; “John Paul Funes Embezzlement Scandal”; Stephanie Riegel, writer and editor

The reporter dissected a \$550,000 embezzlement scheme engineered by the chief fundraiser for the Our Lady of the Lake hospital system and tied it to the families of former LSU football players. Excellent use of public records to get the news out quickly.

Gold: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Penske Buys Famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway”; Anthony Schoettle, Mickey Shuey, Lesley Weidenbener and Mason King, writers; Mike Lopresti, columnist; Greg Andrews, editor

This reporting on famed Indy car racer Roger Penske’s purchase of one of the most iconic racing tracks in the world demonstrated the journal staff’s expertise, its understanding of the speedway’s complex challenges and its knowledge of Penske’s success in other automotive business pursuits. It is steeped in insightful background, thoroughly sourced and well-written.

17. Best Investigative Reporting

SMALL

No awards.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizWest*, “The Legacy of Blue Bear”; Dallas Heltzell, Lucas High and Dan Mika, reporters

This terrific investigation mined public records to reveal the Ponzi scheme behind a factoring investment company that ultimately collapsed and left more than 400 investors with worthless stock. The managing partner had no financial background, took an eight-day course in factoring and built a network of companies that paid early investors with new investors’ money. An excellent set of graphic material maps the network and covers the chronology of the scheme, ticking all the boxes to achieve an example of first-rate reporting.

Gold: *Worcester Business Journal*, “Tax Breaks: Paying for Growth”; Grant Welker, reporter

A six-month investigation into the tax-break habits of 19 Central Massachusetts communities used public records requests to review 148 TIFs over a 20-year period. While a

significant number achieved investment and job creation goals, the extensive analysis found that multiple tax breaks went to corporations with deep pockets, including General Electric and Wayfair, that would have invested regardless. The writer examined the data from several perspectives, demonstrating which businesses and municipalities were among the winners and losers. This is a blueprint for investigating a complex subject and returning a series that is clearly written and extremely readable.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's Detroit Business*, "Is the District Detroit Delivering?"; Kirk Pinho and Bill Shea, reporters

The promise of a gleaming new entertainment and residential district with \$2 billion economic impact seemed largely to have evaporated five years later when two reporters dug into the backstory. They produced a superb package of stories, sidebars, maps and inventory to document the costly snags and delays that stalled the project. Their meticulous groundwork shed light on the ways a developer can immobilize a city.

Gold: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*, "Stung"; Stephanie Riegel, reporter

When a \$6.5 million mosquito abatement facility in Baton Rouge nearly doubled in price, the Business Report did a deep dive into documents to show how a consultant took home more than \$1.2 million while managing the project. Dubious charges, use of extravagant materials and lax oversight emerged as other reasons for the massive cost overruns. Diligent reporting uncovered the crucial connections that shed light on a questionable taxpayer-funded development.

18. Best Explanatory Journalism

SMALL

Silver: *dbusiness*, "Cellular Defense"; Norm Sinclair, contributor

The reporter tells a compelling who-done-it about a Detroit criminal case centering on cell phone records that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. By tapping into transcripts and interviews with key legal sources, he helps show how authorities built their case.

Gold: *Biz 417*; "Altered State"; Adrienne Donica, writer, Alex Wolken, designer, Sarah Patton, art director, Jenna deJong, editor

This package is a focused look at how the legalization of medical marijuana could provide opportunities and challenges for southwest Missouri businesses. It provides well-researched answers to a handful of key questions.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Twin Cities Business*; "Right Place, Wrong Size"; Allison Kaplan, editor-in-chief

The reporter's conversational style hooks readers into this tale about a struggling shopping center in an otherwise thriving development. She navigates through a timeline of shops that have failed or succeeded, using experts to help explain why.

Gold: *Hartford Business Journal*; “Broken System: Hartford’s exorbitant commercial property tax curbs economic growth”; Greg Bordonaro, editor, Matt Pilon, news editor, Sean Teehan, staff writer

This is an ambitious reporting effort that examines how the city’s tax system fails residents, businesses and property owners. The reporters use data, documents and interviews well to show the failures. In addition, they offer solutions based on their discoveries.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “City’s poor often have few affordable options”; Hayleigh Colombo, reporter

These articles vividly demonstrate how working-class city residents struggle financially, thanks to excessive banking fees and loan rates. The reporter includes specific stories of peoples’ struggles, along with data to show the bigger picture of city residents overall.

Gold: *Hawaii Business*; “The CHANGE Report: Community & Economy”; LiAnne Yu, contributor

This package of stories shows how the state’s middle-income residents have been left behind economically. The writer quickly zeros in on family challenges with narrative that is peppered with detail and telling statistics. Also, she delves into potential solutions for different parties.

Category 19: Best Local Coverage of National Business/Economic Story

SMALL

Silver: *Business Journal, Fresno*; “Hemp’s Rollout in the San Joaquin Valley”; Dave Castellon, writer

The writer does a fabulous job of unpacking the complicated reasons that industrial hemp has been slow to take off in this region of California, despite the federal government’s legalization of the crop and the state’s establishment of rules governing its production. The piece covers every angle and features strong sourcing with input from farmers considering growing hemp, with regulators and with bankers reluctant to wade into the industry.

Gold: *dbusiness*; “The Rise of Mobility”; Ronald Ahrens and Paul A. Eisenstein, writers

This is extraordinary and forward-thinking reporting on Detroit automakers’ work toward developing autonomous vehicles and the economic and social ramifications of the coming technology. Crisp writing, authoritative voice and thoughtful interviews drive this one to top.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Hartford Business Journal*; “With Their Costs Under Fire, Long-term Care Hospitals Push Back, Pivot”; Matt Pilon, writer

Here’s an example of excellent enterprise reporting. Mr. Pilon sheds light on the growing debate over the economic value of long-term care hospitals, exploring not only their expense but also their record of patient outcomes. This is a story that other business and health-care reporters can take a cue from.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; Walmart, Guns and Money”; Kyle Massey, writer

Getting the nation’s largest employer to talk openly about anything is no easy feat, so you’ve struck journalistic gold when you get its top executives to grapple on the record with questions about its policies toward the sale of guns ammunition — and customers’ freedom to carry firearms into its stores. The story is very well done.

LARGE

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; “Jones Act: Pro and Con”; Beverly Creamer, writer

This is a complex exploration of the benefits and challenges an obscure 1920 federal shipping law presents for the Aloha State. In-depth analysis and expert sourcing make it exemplary work and a fascinating read.

Gold: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; “All Tapped Out? Not So Fast: Despite Tougher Climate, New Breweries, Growing Production Keep Maturing Industry Coasting Forward”; Dustin Walsh, writer

The news is good and bad for Michiganders who enjoy a frosty craft brew. The writer demonstrates that while there have been plenty of casualties as the industry that boomed for a decade goes flat, there remain plenty of opportunities for those who have weathered the storm.

20. Best Ancillary Publication

SMALL

Silver: *Insight on Business*; “I-Tech (Insight on Technology)”; Brian Rasmussen, Mary Beth Matzek, Jessica Thiel, Bryan Aschenbrenner

An outstanding cover was supported by what’s found inside. Stories were well reported and written with authority. The section’s design uses extremely sophisticated typography. The main article on AI had great use of both documentary and ionic photography.

Gold: *Delaware Business Times*; “STUFF: Made and Built in Delaware”; Peter Osborne, Mike Rocheleau, Al Kemp, Chris Johnson, Eric Bolis, Rosalinda Rocco, Roger Morris, Dan Linehan, Michael Bradley, Patrick Jackson, Rob Martinelli, Donna Hill, Lisa Osborne

This section made it easy to navigate a lot of content with a great editor’s note and table of contents. There are informational articles throughout, and great graphics in the front of the book about stuff that’s made locally. Job profiles were particularly interesting.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; “STUFF: Made and Built in Southeastern Wisconsin”; BizTimes Milwaukee staff

This publication is full of informative and interesting material from beginning to end, with emphasis on telling stories in just the right format. Quizzes, graphics, short stories, and longer articles combine with excellent events listings at the back of the book to make this a complete package.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; “Greenhead”; Chris Bahn, Brent Birch, Todd Traub, Dean Wheeler

The editors describe Greenhead as a one-of-a-kind publication, and it certainly is. The publication is particularly strong on photography, both in the editing and the presentation. The design uses white space excellently, and the layouts lead readers into the beautifully written

stories. The unique content attracts advertising that would otherwise might be out of the main business publication's grasp.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's Detroit Business*; "Crain's Detroit Business Giving Guide"; Dawn Riffenburg, Sherri Welch, Sonya Hill

This is a wonderful giving guide that helps people understand how to give to nonprofits, with useful information about taxes and changes to how and what people can donate. An one-page graphical breakdown of what each of the local nonprofits profiled actually wants and needs helps guide readers in their giving choices.

Gold: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; "2019 Real Estate Report"; J.R. Ball

This is an amazingly detailed and helpful guide to Baton Rouge's real estate market. It pulls no punches, showing areas that have fallen on hard times as well as new developments, and covers all areas of real estate (commercial, residential, and mixed use). Statistics and infographics are helpful and easy to read, and the cover and design throughout are beautiful.

21. Best Bylined Commentary

SMALL

Silver: *Corridor Business Journal*; "The Fifth Estate"; Joe Coffey, columnist; Adam Moore, editor and chief content officer

These columns consistently offer a lively breakdown of media business trends across all platforms in the region. The author is a tough customer, and his sharp eye on the business behind television and local journalism calls for excellence and accountability from the region's media.

Gold: *dbusiness*; "Short Fuse"; R.J. King, editor.

Writing from "Motor City," this piece is smart, economical and packs a punch while also providing a thoughtful explainer and a reality check that challenges conventional thinking on the business behind electric-car manufacturing.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; "Editor's Note"; Gwen Moritz, editor

These editorials consistently tackle difficult but highly relevant themes with a personal, strong and insightful voice. It's a regular dose of reflection and inspiration on challenging topics for Arkansas readers.

Gold: *Twin Cities Business*; "Platitudes"; Adam Platt, executive editor

Simultaneously engaging and challenging, this column delivers meaningful, relevant stories that also tend to provide a window on to a much larger economic issue in the region.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "On Business"; Joe Cahill, columnist

Highly informed, insightful and bold, these columns consistently "go there," using tough words to call for transparency, accountability and fair standards and shining a spotlight on the region's business practices.

Gold: *Florida Trend*; “Editor’s Page”; Mark Howard, editor

The lively, personable and engaging voice of this editorial page offers a consistent, calm guide, helping Floridians navigate the often-murky waters of their state’s economy, politics and culture.

22. Best Editorial

SMALL

Silver: *Vermont Business*; “Ride On”; Tim McQuiston, editor

A moving tribute to one of Vermont’s snowboarding innovators in a piece that ties together entrepreneurship, extreme sport and community, all converging in this portrait of a local legend.

Gold: *dbusiness*; “Classrooms in the Workplace”; R.J. King, editor

This editorial delves into a workplace innovation that offers an intriguing and important solution: workplace classrooms. In doing so, attention is being paid to an issue that strikes at the heart of what business reporting can be about – equality and opportunity.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizWest*; “Universities Should End Farce of Selecting Sole Finalists for President”; Christopher Wood, publisher/editor

This focused, deliberate piece takes aim at an issue of power and accountability and hits the bull’s eye. Presenting a challenge to regional university leadership, the editorial makes a strong case for transparency in university hiring processes that have a big impact on the culture and economy of the region.

Gold: *Worcester Business Journal*; “Promote Diversity in the Marijuana Industry”; Brad Kane, editor; Peter Stanton, CEO/publisher

This very relevant piece is out front on an important emerging issue in the region’s economy, and tackles the issue with urgency and eloquence.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Public kept in dark on Pacers deal until 25-year pact was fait accompli”; Lesley Weidenbener, managing editor

Insightful, impassioned and bold, this editorial courageously calls out a regional business transaction and illuminates issues of transparency that reverberate well beyond this one deal.

Gold: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; “Take the \$500 million, governor, and start building bridges”; Chad Livengood, senior editor

An editorial doesn’t get more pointed than calling on a governor to “fix the damn bridges,” and this blunt call for a political leader to tackle infrastructure needs wraps around that simple sentence an eloquent and focused challenge.

BEST OF SHOW CATEGORIES

23. Most Improved Publication

Winner: *Delaware Business Times*, Peter Osborne, Mike Rocheleau, Jacob Owens, Chris Johnson, Alex Vuocolo, Rob Martinelli

This publication's updates included some restructuring and some content changes, all designed to project a newsier publication. They moved some standing elements from the front to the back to permit more news up front. They also added a daily e-newsletter and two staff reporters. Data suggest the changes are working, with increased audience and a lower average age of readers.

24. Best Website

Bronze: *Providence Business News*; Chris Bergenheim, PBN staff

Fresh content is the priority for this website, as is evident through the plentiful selection of headlines, updated hourly, on its homepage. There is a mix of free and premium offerings, delivering an enhanced experience for subscribers.

Silver: *Crain's Chicago Business*; staff

This website is *the* place to go for business news in Chicago. Readers can trust the site to keep them informed around the clock on everything from residential real estate to higher education, to tourism, to sports. The use of stunning photography, interactive graphics and engaging design add significantly to the excellence of this site.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; staff

Readers never have to look far to find exactly what they are looking for on this website. It's clean design and easy-to-follow navigation lead readers to industry-specific content at a glance. Editorial content is updated, with a focus on topical and breaking news, including connecting small business owners with advice and resources during times of uncertainty. The website also shows the publication's priority on photos, connecting its readers visually with the people behind the stories.

25. Best Magazine

Bronze: *Florida Trend*; Mike Vogel, Amy Martinez, Amy Keller, Jason Garcia, Art Levy, Mark Howard, John Annunziata

Strong local content, reflecting the diversity of the population, and consistent design make a winning combination. The publication tackles a variety of tough issues, including women in agriculture, workers with disabilities, and a world view of teaching. Excellent front of book sections engage readers and demonstrate a commitment to covering many topics.

Silver: *D CEO*; Hamilton Hedrick, Morganne Stewart, Christine Perez, Brandon J. Call, Will Maddox, Bianca R. Montes, Amanda Salerno

This magazine demonstrates a wonderful sense of pacing and how to move through content, starting with slick covers and small appetizers in The Ticker before moving to meaty features. Of note are the compelling stories, for example "The Business of Pride" and "The

Making of a Movie Mogul.” The publication breathes well from a design perspective, with sophisticated typography, good photographs, and graphics. Finally, it closes with the fun back of book section, “Persona.”

Gold: *Hawaii Business*; Cheryl Oncea, Steve Petranik, Kelsey Ige, Jeff Hawe, Noelle Fujii-Oride, Beverly Creamer, Taahirah Ali, Alexis Panoncillo, Amy Ngo, Shana Yoshinaga

Creative, eclectic design and serious features tackled with bravado make this entry a winner. Covers are diverse in subject matter and design. Fun front of book departments, such as “5 Steps” and “My Job,” provide helpful service journalism. The “CHANGE Reports” and “Pushing Back Against Sexual Harassment” were brave, hard hitting and well-researched features, deserving of applause.

26A. Best Newspaper – Small Tabloids

Bronze: *Corridor Business Journal*; Becky Lyons, Adam Moore

Stories are well-executed, and topics are delightfully unpredictable. Standout articles are “Going Up,” about the high-rise boom, and “Stress,” about standardized tests. Design is clean and covers are thoughtful, with a mix of illustrations and photographs.

Silver: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; Vicky Janowski, Cece Nunn, Christina Haley O’Neal, Johanna Cano, Suzi Drake

This publication does a great job of covering news and local issues and is a necessary read for anyone in town. Compelling cover stories and teases to inside entice readers to open the paper and go inside. Photographs and illustrations are sized well, with a dominant image for each story.

Gold: *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*; Charles Crumpley, Publisher, Joel Russell, Editor

Beautifully produced, this publication extensively covers and clearly represents its community. There is an impressive mix of content, with well-written features and news stories throughout. Design is clean and well-organized, with sophisticated typographic treatment and dynamic photography.

26B. Best Newspaper - Medium Tabloids

Bronze: *BizWest*; Christopher Wood, Ken Amundson, Lucas High, Dan Mika, Dallas Heltzell

This newsy publication is jam-packed with features, profiles and news stories that cover the complex and action-packed areas of the Boulder Valley and Northern Colorado. Stories include a wide mix of news about dozens of subjects: restaurants, college towns, higher education, tech, construction and agriculture. The high volume of breaking news and mix of well-written features makes it an essential read.

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; staff

Excellent cover stories and strong design highlight every issue. Whether covering Medicaid’s impact on nursing homes or pushing for the inclusion of minorities in the workforce and the boardroom, readers can count on thoughtful stories with many perspectives. Beyond the covers, the inside is well-designed, intriguing and easy to navigate.

Gold: *Worcester Business Journal*; Brad Kane, editor

Well-written and well-reported, this publication is captivating and smartly designed every week. Writers construct stories that keep readers engaged throughout the section. Story choices are thought-provoking and thorough, whether examining the male-female gap in the boardroom or looking at the impact (or lack of impact) of tax breaks given to local businesses. The publication is well-edited from the cover to the last page, and it's apparent that lots of discussion occurs before the start of reporting, photography and design.

26C. Best newspaper — Large tabloids

Bronze: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; IBJ staff

This publication features expansive content that reaches into the corners of transportation, technology, sports, health, higher education, civic affairs, state government and more. Of particular note is how well it adapts to the changing culture of the community, spotlighting cancer drug research at E.W. Lilly and Co., for example, and taking apart the deal for expansion of the Pacers' fieldhouse. A special innovation section on artificial intelligence is another case of staying ahead of the curve. The design is sturdy, the writing is stylish, and the mix is timely and diverse, overall making this publication a winner.

Silver: *Crain's Detroit Business*; staff

This is a vibrant, well-designed, well-edited publication that breaks new ground with every issue. For example, a look at the way new animal habitats are boosting economic impact at the Detroit Zoo is followed by an authoritative look at new anti-fall technology for seniors from a regional startup; and next in line is an analysis of land costs for the former state fairgrounds property. The design is striking in both images and design. The close attention it pays to briefs, local personalities and balanced viewpoints serves its audience well. Overall, this is a robust publication that sets a high bar and meets it consistently.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; staff

This is a superb, first-rate publication with a powerful and distinctive sensibility. The design is smart and easy to manage. Covers are strong, clear and consistent. Content is tough and smart and pushes readers into new territory — a wide-ranging forum on gun violence is one example, as are a special report on powerful Latinos in Chicago business, and stories about the battle for Chinatown's future, the formidable challenge of affordable housing and "Fast 50," the rock stars of business growth in the city. Columnists add the gift of specialized knowledge about politics, local business and more, while a bonus shout-out must go to "Business Lunch" feature on the last page, a witty, no-nonsense peek at a local eatery.