

THE ALLIANCE OF AREA BUSINESS PUBLISHERS 2025 EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS LIST OF WINNERS

DESIGN CATEGORIES

1. Best Cover - Magazine

Bronze: *Insight On Business*; “Green Bay Blizzard: Snowball Effect”; Kate Bruns, Angela O’Kray, Amelia Compton Wolff

One look at this cover and the temperature drops. The color palette and typography are thematic and consistent. The photograph, styling and make-up are exquisite, and each of these bitterly cold elements contributes to an expressive, fun and eye-catching cover.

Silver: *D CEO Magazine*; “The Education of Taylor Shead”; Hamilton Hedrick

The bright red wardrobe paired with the bright red logo are a wonderful visual tandem drawing attention to the subject while maintaining a fantastic sense of brand. The photograph is flawlessly framed with visually interesting patterns, textures and colors. The typography and design are perfectly balanced to create an inviting sense of comfort and an overall fantastic cover.

Gold: *Hawaii Business*; “Gen Z is on the Job”; Jeff Sanner

The clever and colorful illustration is a lovely and perfect way to convey the idea of multitasking and flexibility. The illustration and cover design work wonders and wear a multitude of hats literally and metaphorically. The colors are captivating. The design is attractive and engaging, with a creative concept, sophisticated style, and a nice variety of complimentary type choices that are both fitting and appropriate.

2. Best Feature Layout - Magazine

Bronze: *Florida Trend*; “Wilderness Trap”; Gary Bernloehr, Jason Morton

Outstanding photography of interesting people and extremely interesting places provide this feature with a clear visual hero. Portraits and secondary locations are consistently beautiful and contribute to a heightened sense of visual storytelling that demonstrate the need for preservation. The type, color and design play a supporting role and contribute sophistication and simplicity.

Silver: *Biz New Orleans*; “Biz New Orleans 10 Year Anniversary”; Sarah Majeste

Superb organization and a remarkable sense of visual hierarchy are paramount in creating a noteworthy feature design with so many parts and pieces of content. The colors and type choices are striking, and the execution of the continuous red timeline throughout the feature is very impressive. Each page provides diverse visual entry points with expertly designed type and graphic elements. The grid system is advanced and extremely complex, and still the page designs deliver on all levels with visual competence and an excellent level of readability.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; “The Resurrection of an Industrial Ghost Town”; Hamilton Hedrick

Brilliant execution of contrasting color and black-and-white photographs communicates the stark contrast of nature and industry. Bold font and style choices are repetitive of form and beautifully reiterate the conceptual message of contrast and change. Every photograph is gorgeous, from portraits to landscapes. Graphic elements and secondary text act as wonderful accents throughout.

3. Best Overall Design – Magazine

Bronze: *Hawaii Business*; Jeff Sanner

Outstanding use of color and playful illustrations, notably demonstrated on the Gen Z cover, convey a perfect and wonderful sense of the spirit and culture. The art and design of “A Renter’s Purgatory” is hilarious and exemplifies an innovative and engaging approach to visual storytelling. Type treatments are adventurous and gorgeous, while the page designs align well with the voice and tone of the content. The overall design is unique, interesting, and entertaining.

Silver: *Biz New Orleans*; Sarah Majeste

“Seeing the Whole Picture” stands out as a fantastic cover and feature design. The feature designs, as a whole, are bold and fearless, incorporating a dynamic use of color with clever designs and compelling type choices. The page designs are classy and modern, expertly incorporating visual details and graphic elements that entertain and interact with the readers from one page to the next. Even the table of contents is impressive.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; Hamilton Hedrick

Beautiful and sophisticated covers are consistently achieved by combining attractive photography with interactive type designs. The compositions are marked by diligent and conscious design. The page layouts are beautifully balanced and demonstrate an amazing sense of visual hierarchy through a profound use of negative space and an exceptional system of type, text and graphic elements. “The Education of Taylor Shead,” “Masters of Adaptation,” and “Seeking True Believers” are all great examples of superb design, but one need not go far in any of the issues before finding yet another example of exceptional and inspiring design.

4. Best Front Page – Newspaper

Bronze: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; “Chemical Reactions”; Suzi Drake, Mark Weber

The playful and conceptual illustration is entertaining and causes an immediate visual reaction that draws the reader into the piece. The use of color and graphic elements are reserved and purposeful. Type choices are sophisticated and classy and provide a great sense of authority and trustworthiness.

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “2/16/24 – Global Gaze”; Audrey Pelsor

A striking photograph captures an expressive moment and the attention of the readers. The headline is simple, bold and relates wonderfully with the photograph. Graphic elements and colorful type and design provide additional visual entry points and contribute to an engaging and interesting front page.

Gold: *Mainebiz*; “Growing Pains”; Matt Selva

The dramatic photograph and integrated type treatments communicate an impactful visual message. Negative space is used effectively to heighten the mood and convey a sense of emotion. The illuminating headline treatment sheds light on a scientific issue. The logo and headers are bold and deliver immediate brand recognition, all while incorporating and celebrating an anniversary in a clever manner.

5. Best Feature Layout – Newspaper

Bronze: *Mainebiz*; “The Reel Deal”; Matt Selva

Candid, honest photography highlights a look behind the curtains of these real estate pros and their social media endeavors. The use of color and typography are relevant and functional in creating fantastic visual entry points. The infographics are fun and educational, providing readers with depth and breadth in a visually interesting format.

Silver: *Los Angeles Business Journal*; “Craft Beer Scene”; Nina Bays, Zane Hill, Marci Shrager, Hannah Welk

Friendly and inviting photography of delicious food, lustrous beer and relatable personalities contribute to an intriguing and impressive take on craft beer. Type and design elements are pertinent and evoke a sense of craft beer culture. This fun design, strong lighting and final campy portrait fit the subject matter.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “40 Under 40”; Thomas J. Linden

Beautiful, flattering portraits present each subject in a truly honorable manner. Grids, fonts and colors are simple and complement the photography, creating a wonderful sense of visual balance and hierarchy. Overall design decisions are consistent, projecting a heightened level of sophistication and class.

6a. Best Overall Design – Small Tabloids

Bronze: *Quad Cities Regional Business Journal*; Jennifer DeWitt, Kenda Burrows, Dave Thompson, Todd Welsaert, Jan Touney, Becky Lyons, Julia Druckmiller

Each issue delivers clean, striking visual moments through expressive typography, strong photography, and clear structure. The *Women of Influence* feature is a standout, breaking from convention with elegant design that honors its subjects while maintaining a consistent, balanced aesthetic throughout.

Silver: *The Business Journal, Fresno*; Gabriel Dillard, Cecilia Lopez

The design combines bold headlines with engaging photography and art direction to deliver strong moments of visual impact. A complex but well-executed front-page grid, creative story-specific design elements, and thoughtful color coordination across typography and imagery all communicate with clarity and flair.

Gold: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; Suzi Drake

This publication stands out with page after page of thoughtfully executed design, guided by a classic grid system and confident typography. Bold conceptual illustrations connect with readers on an intellectual level, while strong documentary photography help show what

happened. Covers are consistently compelling, particularly the umbrella and portrait issues.

6b. Best Overall Design – Medium Tabloids

Bronze: *Springfield Business Journal*; staff

A strong sense of hierarchy, with bold type and thoughtful photo selections, bring visual weight to each story. A special edition shines with creative use of grid, color, and typography, offering a fresh take on the editorial design. Throughout the publication, moments of bold color and documentary photography—like the black-and-white “Day in the Life” spread—are paired with well-crafted pullouts and illustrations to create pages that are both informative and visually compelling.

Silver: *Worcester Business Journal*; Mitchell Hayes

Strong headline hierarchy, bold typography, and thoughtful placement create intrigue and ease of navigation. Feature stories—like those on DEI—are supported by well-sized, relevant photography and compelling layouts that blend information graphics and visual variety. From cover to cover, the design maintains a polished, consistent rhythm that balances creativity with clarity.

Gold: *Mainebiz*; Matt Selva

This publication delivers a standout visual experience through bold, adventurous design choices and a consistently captivating cover strategy. Expressive use of color, sharp typography, and beautifully curated photography—including portraits to documentary images—give each feature story strength and presence. Graphic elements like maps, textures, and infographics create engaging entry points throughout, while photo essays and thematic issues, such as “Charms of the Farm” and “Back on the Clock,” reflect strong editorial vision.

6c. Best Overall Design – Large Tabloids

Bronze: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; Thomas J. Linden, Karen Freese Zane, Kayla Byler, Jason McGregor

A bold yet reserved design approach allows photography to lead with impact. Clean, modern layouts and consistent cover branding support a news-forward experience, with standout moments like the documentary-style “Flood Fight” cover and the refined portrait work in “40 Under 40.” The overall composition, anchored by elegant typography and careful hierarchy, is both visually engaging and easy to navigate.

Silver: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; Karen Freese Zane, Rodolfo Jimenez

This consistently strong and visually balanced publication excels in organizing complex content. From clever timelines to well-structured feature layouts, the design creates clear entry points and a steady visual rhythm across diverse subjects. Moments of photographic brilliance—like iconic portraits and city landmarks—elevate the storytelling, while the back-page “Conversation” section offers a clean, digestible close. The sophisticated grid and sharp visual pacing serve both efficiency and elegance.

Gold: *Los Angeles Business Journal*; Nina Bays, Pearl Beltran, Marci Shrager

The design presents a high volume of news with clarity and visual sophistication. The tight, complex grid system and vibrant use of color bring structure and energy to each page, while varied graphic elements—charts, infographics, and bright photography—keep the visual rhythm engaging. From data-rich features like “Wealthiest Angelenos” to dynamic front-of-book packages, the design consistently supports the storytelling.

7a. Best Use of Photography/Illustrations – Newspapers

Bronze: *Mainebiz*; Matt Selva, Tim Greenway, Fred Field, Jim Neuger

This entry has multiple pages of news photography showing good editing choices to tell visual stories. This emphasis on visuals was consistent throughout. Nice mix of graphics, illustrations and photographs. Highlights included the photojournalism of the floods and the display of photography on the eclipse page.

Silver: *Springfield Business Journal*; Heather Mosley, Rebecca Green, Tawnie Wilson, Katelyn Egger

From black-and-white documentary photos to a colorful word cloud in the shape of a body to illustrate accommodations in the workforce, this portfolio of work shows a dynamic staff thinking of creative visual storytelling solutions. “The Great Rest” is a thoughtful illustration, while the Joe Dull portrait is relaxed, humorous and shows good lighting techniques. Other photos show real people doing real things, and the images are arranged with good understanding of dominant visuals on a page.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; Jason McGregor, Thomas J. Linden, Stephanie Swearngin, Michael Waraksa, Geoffrey Black, Cassandra West, Organic Headshots photography

This entry showed real strength in the impressive packaging of visual storytelling. Animated interactive graphics, moving arrows, timelines and history all combined on multiple projects to add an energy and excitement around the strong visual material packed with information. Meanwhile, an impressive portrait series juxtaposed warm skin tones against cool backgrounds to provide a wonderful color contrast that lifted the photos off the page.

7b. Best Use of Photography/Illustrations – Magazines

Bronze: *Hawaii Business*; Jeff Sanner

This entry is full of a very specific style of illustration that is smart and professional. The elegant work is featured large with a good amount of space to highlight the beauty and to be fully appreciated by the reader.

Silver: *Florida Trend*; Gary Bernloehr, Jason Morton

Each element of this entry shows the excellent display given to the photography and illustrations. A highlight is the section of portraits and nature, giving the photo editing a fun challenge to make good pairings. “Big Weed” shows how the team is able to get a photographer into some good situations. The photos are surprising and help readers see into the industry. Cover portraits and illustrations are powerful and fun.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; Hamilton Hedrick

Large, quality images abound, with thoughtful complementary elements allowing the photography and illustrations to communicate to their fullest. Among these full bleeds are photos addressing topics like computers and A.I, a concept difficult to convey yet handled exceptionally. Other examples include three spreads that perfectly balance excellent full-page portraits against complimentary headline and text.

ONLINE CATEGORIES

8a. Best Use of Multimedia

Bronze: *Baton Rouge Business Report*; “Bottom Line”; Oscar Tickle, multimedia news producer

This series does the legwork of capturing compelling visuals to bring viewers into the businesses and industrial developments shaping southern Louisiana. The editing is sleek and concise, and the videos fit a lot of relevant and useful information into a small package, without feeling scattered or overcrowded.

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “CPS needs to plug a huge financial hole — but where will it find the funds?”; Jason McGregor, digital design editor, Judith Crown, reporter, Cassandra West, assistant managing editor for news features

In taking on the complex and far-reaching issue of Chicago Public Schools’ financial shortfall, this entry fully leveraged a variety of media elements in a cohesive design that is user-friendly and intuitive. The continuous scroll of the web page and the thoughtful infographics help visualize numbers that otherwise might seem overwhelming, while connecting them to the various stakeholders and decision-makers involved in the story.

Gold: *Crain’s New York Business*; “Subway and retail SOS”; Buck Ennis, staff photographer, Jason McGregor, digital design editor, Caroline Spivack, reporter

Not only does this entry show enterprising reporting in taking on the often-overlooked issue of vacant subway retail space, it finds a way to make what otherwise might be mundane subject matter deeply engaging through a wide range of media, including photos, infographics and video. The web build draws upon design elements of the subway itself to take users down the line of subway retail’s decline, with stops along the way showing the space’s history, how it changed over time, and new opportunities.

8b. Best Podcast

Bronze: *Corridor Business Journal*; “Real Success with Nate Kaeding”; Nate Kaeding, Logan Schultz

This is down-to-earth podcast illuminates the character of the movers and shakers in Iowa. Nate Kaeding’s persona on mic is approachable and conversational, fostering candid conversations with the guests. Kaeding’s connection with the Midwest shines through, and the familiarity serves the mission of the podcast well.

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Off the Record with Nate Feltman”; Nate Feltman

This podcast brings in star-factor guests who give intriguing insider perspectives and tell

compelling stories along with the host. The cold open structure does well to draw listeners in and ensures they remain engaged throughout the podcast. The result is altruistic in nature, featuring guests who aim to advise and encourage other businesses and entrepreneurs.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; “Crain’s Daily Gist”; Amy Guth, Todd Manley Katherine Davis, John Pletz, Ally Marotti

This podcast boasts an impressive production quality and structure, guiding listeners through headlines and reporter two-ways with an authority that lends itself to a seamless listening experience. Each episode is timely, whether it is localizing national topics or exploring the industries and culture unique to Chicago.

9. Best Daily Email

Bronze: *Florida Trend*; “Daily Pulse”; Will Gorham, Aimée Alexander, Robb Lee

Keeping things simple and to the point, this daily summary is easy to consume but mindful of the importance of the reader’s time. The headlines and summaries give just enough to inform, but allow the reader to dive in deeper if they wish. The content choices show an awareness of what matters and which issues are most likely to keep the reader engaged.

Silver: *Business News*; “Afternoon Wrap”; Isabel Vieira, Nadia Budihardjo, Tom Zaunmayr, Jack McGinn, Claire Tyrrell, Liv Declerck, Justin Fris, Sam Jones, Sean Cowan

This entry stands out for its clean, simple design that makes navigation effortless and enjoyable. The layout allows readers to quickly scan and find content that interests them without feeling overwhelmed. The result is thoughtfully curated, well-executed, and clearly built with the reader in mind.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; “Arkansas Business Morning Roundup”; Scott Carroll

Story summaries are thoughtfully crafted and are quick to read yet informative, enabling the reader to catch up in a short time while still giving the essentials needed to be in the know. The layout and design strike a balance between being visually engaging without being distracting.

10. Best Specialty E-Newsletter

Bronze: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “Crain’s Residential Real Estate Report”; Dennis Rodkin, Aly Brumback

The content selection is very well-rounded and offers a complete picture of the real estate market for its readers at that moment. Combining clear headlines and imagery allows the reader some idea of what lies on the other end of the hyperlink, should they wish to engage further.

Silver: *Des Moines Business Record*; “Fearless e-newsletter”; Emily Wood, Nicole Grundmeier

The personal touch - introduced in each letter with a note from the staff writers and continued in the content curated for its target readers – makes this newsletter stand out. It is not just an offering of news and information, but a look into why the topics at hand were chosen. Calls to action throughout the newsletter add a dimension of self-motivation to what the newsletter has to offer.

Gold: *Florida Trend*; “Florida Trend Health Care”; Will Gorham, Aimée Alexander, Robb Lee

The simple and clear design allows the headlines to stand out and draw in the reader, accentuated when appropriate by notations of special or exclusive content. The stories highlighted in the newsletter show an awareness of health issues that have the most impact locally and around the publication’s reading area, and which are likely to be of importance to the reader.

JOURNALISM CATEGORIES

11. Best Scoop

SMALL

Silver: *The Business Journal, Fresno*; “Layoff notices for 171 Cargill workers ahead of Fresno meat plant sale”; John Lindt, Gabriel Dillard

This reporting offers a clear account of the impending layoffs at Cargill's Fresno plant, providing essential context on the sale and the implications for its workers. The article excels in balancing the economic implications with the human impact by highlighting both corporate developments and community consequences. Thorough sourcing and attention to detail combine to give readers a well-rounded view of the transition.

Gold: *Crain’s Grand Rapids Business*; “Microsoft buys 316 acres from Steelcase for potential data center in Kent County”; Kate Carlson

This thorough and insightful look into Microsoft’s significant land acquisition in Kent County sheds light on its potential impact on the region’s tech landscape. It brilliantly connects the dots between corporate strategy, local economic development, and zoning considerations, providing readers with a well-rounded understanding of the situation, even despite Microsoft not providing comment. The reporting stands out for its clarity, detail, depth and context.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; “Erin Hills developer plans to build another destination golf course in southeastern Wisconsin”; Andrew Weiland

This reporting provides a comprehensive and engaging look at Bob Lang's ambitious Trinity Hills golf project. Detailed insights into the project's vision, from its unique natural features to the involvement of notable figures like a PGA golfer as lead architect, are combined with details about its scope, including the estimated costs and plans. The thorough coverage offers readers valuable insights into the potential economic and environmental impacts of this development.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; “Incoming Chief Justice’s Unauthorized Office Entry Prompts New Rules at Arkansas Supreme Court”; Mark Friedman, Hunter Field

The exclusive reporting exposed turmoil behind closed doors for the state’s highest court, uncovering a situation with serious implications for judicial integrity and public trust. This article delivers readers with an impactful piece of reporting on one of the state’s most powerful people and demonstrates a commitment to transparency and holding powerful institutions accountable.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's Cleveland Business*; "ShotStop Ballistics ceases operation amid federal investigation"; Jeremy Nobile

This comprehensive narrative offers a thorough examination of a company's abrupt shutdown amid a federal investigation and sheds light on serious concerns about product authenticity and investor transparency. The story underscores the broader implications for public safety and trust in defense manufacturing, prompting critical discussions about accountability in industries where lives are at stake.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "Ascension outsourcing Chicago-area hospital workers to private equity-owned staffing firm"; Katherine Davis

This reporting on the outsourcing of hospital staff to a private equity-backed firm exemplifies journalism at its finest. The meticulous, in-depth coverage not only broke the story but also illuminated the broader implications for patient safety and health care quality. By incorporating perspectives from a diversity of stakeholders, it provides a comprehensive view of the concerns surrounding the transition.

12a. Best Feature Single Story

SMALL

Silver: *DBusiness Magazine*; "What's on Tap?"; Dan Calabrese, Michelle Cohl, writers

What made this story a standout was its smart analysis about the aftereffects of the 2024 NFL draft in Detroit, from the way it impacted the economy to the lift it gave to the city's spirits to the universal satisfaction with its success. The clever drawings and colorful design elements were an added bonus.

Gold: *Corridor Business Journal*; "The Caitlin Clark Effect"; Richard Pratt, writer

The inspirational value of this story is enormous, and the writer accomplishes this by deftly capturing the personality, drive, skills, accomplishments and extraordinary promise of Caitlin Clark, the rising superstar out of Iowa. Not only is the scope of the reporting about her impressive, but the writing is thoroughly engaging. To have produced such a comprehensive, perceptive profile before Clark even reached her prime is a class act.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Des Moines Business Record*; "A Farm Transformation"; Kyle Heim, writer

One Iowa farm family's decision to pivot from a concentrated animal feeding operation to harvesting 4,000 mushrooms a week is the subject of a fascinating story about perseverance and adaptability. The writer does the story justice by examining the process of change and the particular strategies this family adopted to innovate and adjust. What became a breakthrough for one family may inform countless others, an example that illustrates the value of this kind of journalism.

Gold: *Mainebiz*; "Charms of the Farm"; Renee Cordes, writer

A delightful story about goats on an apple farm leads into a nicely crafted, information-rich feature about the surge of agritourism in Maine. Full of well-researched material about the

evolution of agriculture in the state, the story also introduces a variety of examples, from a cherry orchard that hosts seasonal parties to a salad-greens-and-tulip farm with popular u-pick events. National context and ample data add weight to this winning entry.

LARGE

Silver: *D CEO*; “The Resurrection of an Industrial Ghost Town”; Jennifer Warren, writer

Thoroughly original and eye-opening, this story tracks the redevelopment of a Chernobyl-looking industrial land into a modern fusion of technological innovation and creativity. The writer makes sense of the staggering project by untangling its history, scope, process, potential and strategic plan. This is a prime example of when a great idea meets terrific reporting and first-rate writing.

Gold: *Florida Trend*; “Wilderness Trap”; Brittney Miller, writer

A proposal cropped up to give wilderness protection to Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida, and this publication made the decision to study why indigenous tribes, legislators, hunters, nonprofits and state officials rallied against it. The result is an authoritative, well-documented, beautifully written account of the legal, political, biological and very personal issues involved. Along with the story, the photographs are simply stunning.

12b. Best Feature Story Series

SMALL

Silver: *The Business Journal, Fresno*; “Journey into AI”; Gabriel Dillard, Frank Lopez, Dylan Gonzales, Ben Hensley

The biggest brains in business are focused on AI right now, and this series offers accessible and actionable advice from the community’s most innovative leaders. Each installment is expertly written to provide something new for everyone, from the readers looking to get their feet wet to the early adopters ready to use AI to transform their operation.

Gold: *South Sound Business*; “Building Legacies”; Joanna Kresge, Blake Peterson

This collection combines past and present, tying together the history of the region’s most recognizable buildings and the businesses that call them home today. It is an unpredictable and well-executed idea that could serve as a template for publications across the country, tapping into nostalgia – and the archives – to tell great hometown stories.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Providence Business News*; “A Cure for the Ills?”; Ryan Doherty

Just how bad is the shortage of doctors in the region? As one of the quoted sources put it: “so bad that primary care providers can’t even find a primary care provider.” This series explains how Rhode Island found itself with so few doctors and why it could take generations to solve the problem. Stories are well sourced and demonstrate just how dire the situation is.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; “Coverage of the 2024 RNC in Milwaukee”; Maredithe Meyer, Andrew Weiland, Ashley Smart, Hunter Turpin, Samantha Dietel, Arthur Thomas

The 2024 Republican National Convention was the largest and highest-profile event the city ever hosted. The staff knew its assignment and provided visitors and locals alike with

holistic, comprehensive coverage that goes beyond the obvious with a layered approach that drives home the impact of the event through far-reaching reporting.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “IBJ’s All-Star Access”; IBJ staff

The staff’s ongoing coverage of the NBA All-Star Weekend was a slam dunk, from the weekly previews to the post-game follow ups. The comprehensive reporting expanded beyond the typical with features on the hospitality, transportation and entertainment industries.

Gold: *Crain’s New York Business*; “The Real Estate Families of New York”; C.J. Hughes, Julianne Cuba, Eddie Small, Aaron Elstein

Meet the true New York power brokers in this series, introducing the city’s most notable real estate families. Reporters dug in, unearthing the most intricate – and interesting – details of the city’s biggest wheelers and dealers. Also notable was the use of archival photos to contextualize the influence the subjects wield generation after generation.

13. Best Profile on a Person or Company

SMALL

Silver: *Insight on Business*; “Juiced Up”; Amelia Compton Wolff, reporter

A solid business profile that fizzles with the company’s personality gives a picture of the company founders and its challenges along the way. The voices and personalities of the owners shine through, and the reporter nestled business challenges and strategy with strong scenes, emotions and proof points.

Gold: *Vermont Business*; “Creating Community: HB Lozito and Out in the Open”; Joyce Marcel, reporter

This profile introduced readers to more than just a person by capturing the unique experience of queer people in rural Vermont. With strong anecdotes, robust details and compelling quotes, the story highlighted a leader who is making a difference and the complexities of the human experience.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; “In their blood: Versiti makes huge impact on health care and Milwaukee’s economy”; Cara Spoto, reporter

People stayed front and center in this profile of Versiti, a blood-health company. From patients who benefit from the research and health services to the researchers who delight in the opportunities to make a difference, this story highlighted the deep impact of the company. Bookended by a wonderful anecdotal lead and a satisfying ending, the story included plenty of business information and context without obscuring the human impact.

Gold: *Twin Cities Business*; “Houston White Means Business”; Allison Kaplan, editor in chief

Entrepreneur Houston White represents more than one person making a mark in business; his work taps into much larger themes about the people and places that attract investments. Navigating the context of investment and branding decisions in a social landscape, the story is told through a combination of nice scenes, potent context and quotes and moments that show off

White's personality.

LARGE

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; "Hawaii Business CEO of the Year"; Catharine Lo Griffin, reporter

A 360-degree profile on Christine Camp shows the CEO's dedication to lifting the whole community through strategic investment and development. Beyond her business sensibilities and key projects, the story explores her personality and family life to give the reader a full picture of how she is strongly rooted in the local area's needs and achievements.

Gold: *Florida Trend*; "Triumph and Tragedy"; Michael Fechter, reporter

This profile pairs a gut punch of Kathleen Passidomo's husband's death with a warm hug of bipartisan, good sense politics. Packed with emotions and diving into broader themes of sexism and leadership, the story uses emotional anecdotes, strong sourcing, proof points and thematic elements to reflect on a person's purpose and legacy.

14. Best Recurring Feature

SMALL

Silver: *DBusiness Magazine*; "Patents & Innovations"; Norm Sinclair

This feature offers fun surprises and interesting tidbits for its readers with a historical narrative about local people who changed the world. While the stories take readers on a historical journey the photos also bring recognition to trailblazers in the community.

Gold: *South Sound Business*; "24 Hours"; Joanna Kresge

Chronicling a day in the life of a business owner, this feature takes an interesting approach to the topic with its conversational writing and solid packaging, making it an approachable and enjoyable read.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; "Rev Up"; Ashley Smart

This feature showcases interesting selections and unique stories. It offers a good scouting on innovative startups in the community and tells readers why they are relevant, while also making the content relatable.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; "Outtakes"; Kyle Massey

This feature covering the media industry combines well-reported information with conversational and authoritative writing. Each installment includes nuggets of new or undiscovered information.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; "Indiana 250"; Samm Quinn, Audrey Pelsor

Presenting bits of wisdom from people on the publication's annual list of top leaders is smart recurring feature idea that was truly well executed. The quotes presented around each topic were interesting, and the feature helps build community over time.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; "Roots"; Layten Praytor

These smart, concise mini-profiles recount the origin stories of business leaders who came from overseas in their youth and later made their mark on the local business community. There is an impressive narrative quality for such tight writing, and the whole idea demonstrates a good way to highlight the wide range of avenues to success.

15: Best Coverage of Local Breaking News

SMALL

Silver: *Corridor Business Journal*; “Linn County Gaming, Peninsula Pacific to again seek gaming license for Cedar Rapids casino”; Richard Pratt

The reporter did a wonderful job of showing how the community has remained steadfast in their position, beliefs and desires to bring more revenue to the town despite opposition. The story clearly articulates the tensions between the community and government.

Gold: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; “‘Really bad’: Carolina Beach business owners wade through aftermath of rare flood”; Cece Nunn and Jessica Maurer

This breaking news coverage was well executed. It was great that the reporter was able to gather voices from people affected, an in-depth assessment of impact and the sentiment of what the weather reports said and how they were conveyed to the residents. The closing quote was very powerful.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; “Little Rock Airport director injured in shootout with federal agents”; staff

This was impressive coverage of the situation, and the reporter had an intriguing approach to leading readers through the details.

Gold: *Virginia Business*; “U.S. port strike starts; Port of Va. stops cargo operations”; Kate Andrews

This reporting includes excellent coverage of the local and global impact to the workforce in this industry. The article was able to validate the local voices while wrapping in the state and federal data.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “Dom’s, Foxtrot closing all stores as parent company shutter”; Jack Grieve

This piece was written in a way that made it easy to digest. While there was strong commentary from the affected employees, the article also provided insight on what led to the situation.

Gold: *Business News*; “Mining future uncertain for Ravensthorpe”; Isabela Riviera

This well-written and well-sourced entry reports on a mine closure affecting hundreds of jobs. The article deftly focuses on the impact of the closure while not allowing necessary background and scientific explanations to overshadow the human aspects.

16. Best Investigative Reporting

SMALL

Silver: No award.

Gold: *DBusiness Magazine*; “The Politics of Water”; John Sitkiewicz, reporter

A lot of data was pulled together to help the reader understand a complex, important issue in a way that is thoroughly reported and clearly told.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Providence Business News*; “Windfall Woes”; Christopher Allen, reporter

This well-reported story highlights the variety of local challenges to using ARPA funds. The reporter tapped into federal, state and local data sources to get specifics. The focus on local communities shows why this is relevant to readers.

Gold: *Worcester Business Journal*; “Chaos and Toxicity: The failing of the cannabis control commission”; Eric Casey, reporter, Dan Adams, reporter

An array of voices paint a vivid picture of dysfunctional government. The writing is clear and confident. The story gains weight from the internal emails and other documents obtained by the reporters.

LARGE

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; “Private Equity Owns a Chunk of Hawaii’s Hotels”; Noelle Fujii-Oride, reporter

The reporting tapped into corporate and land records to show how U.S. private equity firms have expanded their footprint on the islands. Sidebars and graphics help break out key parts of the story, which also incorporates many voices including everyday workers.

Gold: *Crain’s New York Business*; “New York’s Nonprofit Shadow Government”; Nick Garber, Amanda Glodowski, Caroline Spivack, Anne Michaud, Eddie Small

This entry provides an exhaustive look at the politically connected nonprofits that contract with the city government to provide essential services to residents. Great use of documents shows how the nonprofits are tied to New York lobbyists, elected officials and others in power. Tight writing and presentation make the story easy to follow.

17. Best Explanatory Journalism

SMALL

Silver: *Corridor Business Journal*; “Striking curiosity: Union support grows, membership numbers decline”; Annie Smith Barkalow, reporter

The reporter does a great job localizing national trends about Gen Z workers. Clear writing and nice selection of anecdotes make this a fun read.

Gold: *South Sound Business*; “It Takes a Village: A Closer Look at TeamBirth”; John Stearns, staff writer

This story shows readers why a new standard of birth care is needed in Washington state. The writer includes a wide mix of voices, from moms to medical experts, to show how care can

be boosted.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Virginia Business*; “In critical condition: Independent medical practices face long odds”; Katherine Schulte, associate editor

This article uses clear, effective, writing to show why independent doctors are vanishing. The writer pairs local voices and examples with national data to provide a comprehensive look.

Gold: *Mainebiz*; “Tariff turmoil”; Renee Cordes, senior writer

This roundup is a prescient look at a news story that has only become more urgent since publication. The writer was ahead of the pack on seeing why the issue was important and unpacking it with clarity for a local audience.

LARGE

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; “Ceded Lands”; Catharine Lo Griffin, writer

The writer taps into history for this report about how the federal government wrested land from native Hawaiians. The article showcases local stories to depict how natives have been harmed economically by these actions and explores potential solutions for justice.

Gold: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; “911 and mental distress — can more be done to avert tragedy?”; Dustin Walsh, senior reporter

This deeply reported story illustrates how law enforcement agencies across Michigan grapple with how to respond to behavioral emergencies. The reporter provides rich detail to show how rural police face different challenges than their urban counterparts.

18a. Best Beat Reporting, Economics and Finance

SMALL

Silver: No award.

Gold: *South Sound Business*; John Stearns, reporter

This reporter captures the pulse of the local economy through storytelling, whether it be a feature on how a credit union became a cannabis banker, to a broad piece on regional economic development, to how a company reimagined its purpose through employee ownership. All stories have a lively pace but are laden with details.

MEDIUM

Silver: No award.

Gold: *Mainebiz*; Renee Cordes, reporter

This reporter shows expertise in taking a national headline and bringing it home, whether it be banks worried about high interest rates, or those rates fueling lots of bank mergers. She also is adept at spotting trends in finance, such as local small- and medium-size companies using contract Chief Financial Officers. All in all, this entry shows skill with making complex topics explainable.

LARGE

Silver: *Los Angeles Business Journal*; Kennedy Zak, reporter

Diversity a big part of the Los Angeles Business landscape, and covering the growth of minority-owned business is key to understanding the regional economy. This reporter shows agility at balancing business profiles with tough analysis.

Gold: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; Susan Orr, reporter

Covering financial fraud, particularly Ponzi schemes, is a tough nut to crack, as it's hard to tell truth from illusion. This reporter uses her experience to sort it all out for readers. She also looks for trends on the beat, including how investors are flooding into alternative investments. Expertise with the legal wranglings and the local investment community make the reporting shine.

18b. Best Beat Reporting, Real Estate

SMALL

Silver: *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*; Rachel Visick, reporter

This lovely package of stories explores a variety of topics within real estate and their community impacts, from a giant international company making logistics investments to an individual family making use of relaxed zoning regulations. Strong local voices throughout elevated the reporting.

Gold: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; Emma Dill, reporter, Cece Nunn, assistant editor and real estate reporter

This well-reported story collection identified important local trends, such as poor preservation of historic buildings, and local ties to national stories, such as the damper of rising interest rates on home sales. A standout effort is a thorough examination of the various reasons why the state is falling behind in making its properties hurricane-ready.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Des Moines Business Record*; Michael Crumb, senior staff writer

Clear, confident writing helps readers to understand how, where and why the city is growing. A heartfelt peek behind the motives of a large real estate seller brought a warm human touch to the package.

Gold: *Hartford Business Journal*; Michael Puffer, staff writer

This stellar collection of stories pursue their topics past the obvious to the second-order outcomes. A standout entry is how the wave of commercial real estate vacancies since COVID has swept its way to the courthouse in the form of lawsuits challenging the buildings' tax assessments. Clear writing, a diversity of sourcing, and plenty of data further elevate this package.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; Mickey Shuety, reporter

Thorough reporting through public records, court filings and strong sourcing characterize this package of stories, each one helping readers understand how and where the complex projects

or businesses at their centers went off the rails.

Gold: *Crain's Detroit Business*; Kirk Pinho, senior reporter

These three stories each deal with icons of local or national history. With an evenhanded, engaging writing style, they delve deeply into the public-spirited progress symbolized in each renovation project or proposal without ever veering into veneration.

18c. Best Beat Reporting, Tech and Innovation

SMALL

Silver: *Quad Cities Regional Business Journal*; Kenda Burrows, senior reporter, Jennifer DeWitt, editor

This story collection showcases how tech can play a role enhancing one's quality of life, such as a playful new way to order a pizza, and scratches below the surface to show how innovation lies beneath what could have been more ordinary business-expansion stories.

Gold: *Corridor Business Journal*; Annie Smith Barkalow, reporter, Richard Pratt, senior reporter

Clear structure, strong storytelling and good sourcing allow this package to make difficult stories look easy. The articles stretch across the state to report on a nurses' innovation program, dive decades into the past to uncover local innovations in radio and satellite communications, and make the nexus of medical insurance and AI understandable to the lay person.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; Chloe McGehee, reporter

A well-written and enjoyable pair of startup profiles bookend a fascinating examination of the growing cost of not the *prevention* of cyberattacks but the liability insurance for when they happen anyway. The stories make effective use of data, pulling from national, state and industry sources, while never losing site of local voices.

Gold: *Rochester Business Journal*; Andrea Deckert, staff writer, Kevin Oklobzija, staff writer

These stories skillfully explain complicated scientific innovations, including cutting-edge astronomical equipment and the high-tech training tools to throw a better fastball. Effective weaving of historical and regional context further cements the importance of the topics.

LARGE

Silver: *D CEO Magazine*; Will Maddox, senior writer

Scientific innovations can be difficult to describe both simply and clearly, but effective use of data along with concrete examples bring these health care-tech stories into sharp focus. Strong storytelling takes the prose even higher. The standout entry explores how AI is aiding physician decision-making to help avoid high-risk surgeries.

Gold: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; Susan Orr, staff writer

These stories paint on a big canvas — statewide initiatives to remake manufacturing or to lure an important new sector. They pull off an impressive task, capturing the big-picture story, backed up by data, along with on-the-ground examples to illustrate the theme, all without losing the reader along the way.

19. Best Ancillary Publication

SMALL

Silver: *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*; “Focus: Agriculture and Viticulture in the Columbia Basin”; Kristina Lord, Rachel Visick, Sara Schilling, Vanessa Guzman, Tiffany Lundstrom, Chad Utecht

This publication packs a lot into a tightly planned section and covers local agriculture with a rich collection of stories. The nice use of visuals and graphic elements help round out a solid and useful package.

Gold: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; “Real Estate Issue”; Vicky Janowski, Suzi Drake, Cece Nunn, Emma Dill, Audrey Elsberry

With a mix of story types, this publication provides a detailed and interesting look at commercial and residential real estate. The design is well executed with harmonious typography, valuable infographics and sharp photography.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Mainebiz*; “Fact Book”; Peter Van Allen, Matt Selva, Stephanie Meagher

With the tagline “Doing business in Maine,” this publication sets a high bar — and then vaults over it. A robust variety of stories provide a solid foundation, but the data is the real star. Plentiful infographics are clear and thoughtfully executed. A photo essay is a nice surprise.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; “Greenhead”; Eric Olson, Brent Birch, Dean Wheeler

Topic expertise and storytelling expertise combine in this beautiful publication. With a clear focus on its niche of readers, it creates many must-stop-and-read moments with lovely design and photography and engaging stories.

LARGE

Silver: *Baton Rouge Business Report*; “10/12 Industry Report”; Penny Font, Sam Barnes, Hoa Vu

Engaging writing and great photography elevate this publication. The overall package is nicely designed and paced, and the layouts have texture and variety. It includes big stories with robust reporting on topics such as offshore drilling and solar infrastructure.

Gold: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “The Block”; IBJ staff

A variety of story topics and formats — all focused on swimming — keep the reading experience enjoyable and educational. Local ties and newsworthiness are neatly shown in each story. Smart use of art and design help surprise and delight.

20. Best Bylined Commentary

SMALL

Silver: *New Hampshire Business Review*; “NH Business Notebook”; Mike Cote

These are excellent examples of providing rich context to help readers understand current issues. Articles on the local airport and the growth of local manufacturing of human body parts

were deeply reported, supported by facts, and illuminated by clear explanation.

Gold: *Ingram's*; "Editor's Note"; Joe Sweeney

The writer provides fearless commentary on topics of wide community interest. The voice is passionate, reasoned and driving toward a positive way forward. Subjects included a national election with impact on local business, an ineffective response to local gun violence, and a controversial stadium funding outcome.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Twin Cities Business*; "Plattitudes"; Adam Platt

The columns provide a street-level view of challenges that require more than yes-no, right-wrong or red-blue. The column dives into nuances of issues that illustrate that possible solutions may have more than one answer. Whether restaurant owners vs. unions, rideshare business models vs. city regulations, or transportation plans that divide environmentalists vs. car driver, accountability and practicality are central to the conversations.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; "Commentary"; Andrew Welland

This writer takes a step back to examine the trajectory of conversations and remind the community of what's really important in discussions about things like city finances, budgeting and taxes. The school district had a bad year, yet the community needs to support school children. Some companies lost business during a national convention, yet the city overall reaped huge benefits. Nobody like more taxes, but sharing state and local taxes provides stability for both.

LARGE

Silver: *Florida Trend*; "Editor's Page"; Amy Keller, Editor

The author skillfully tackles big issues like cybersecurity or home repair fraud, using anecdotes and examples to illustrate the challenges. It's not just reporting and facts, it's the human connection in these pieces that makes them feel as comfortable as a conversation around the water cooler.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "Politics"; Greg Hinz

Using solid evidence and colorful turns of phrase, this writer knowledgeably and boldly takes on the people in power. The column comparing the governor's and mayor's separate trade trips skillfully lets the facts themselves make a stinging indictment of how the mayor is operating.

21. Best Editorial

SMALL

Silver: No award.

Gold: *Vermont Business*; "Regulatory Superpowers"; Timothy McQuiston, editor

Who should determine policy for the state? Regulators or elected officials? This editorial offers a frank examination of who should decide important climate or health decisions. It delineates the problem of unelected regular officials and firmly makes the case for giving the

responsibility – and the accountability – to elected officials.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Worcester Business Journal*; “The anti-WPI vitriol is not how we should do business”; Peter Stanton, publisher, Brad Kane, editor

Strong editorials offer solutions, not just arguments, and this one calmly details how vitriol doesn’t help the community move forward. It’s clear the writers did their homework – outlining the obvious and less obvious ramifications of the actions by both sides. Importantly, they offer a detailed plan that should bring both sides back together.

Gold: *Hartford Business Journal*; “Lawmakers Derelict in not addressing CT’s collapsing small group health insurance market”; Greg Bordonaro, editor

This editorial not only outlines a growing problem for small business, but details the wide-ranging consequences of not taking action, all backed by data and a chart. It also offers a simple straightforward solution and includes examples of other states where the idea has worked. Powerful thinking, powerful writing.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago*; “A less-than-pretty picture at the Art Institute”; Ann Dwyer, editor; Crain’s editorial board

Plain language, clear thinking and a focus on the museum’s reputation are the hallmarks of this editorial, which provides a solid dissection of the situation surrounding a drawing that might have been looted from an Austrian collector.

Gold: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Stripping access counselor’s authority harms public as well as press”; Lesley Weidenbener, editor

This editorial details exactly what’s at stake related to freedom of information if proposed legislation were to pass and get signed into law. In direct, concise language it advocates a clear course of action with sound logic to back it up.

BEST OF SHOW CATEGORIES

22. Most Improved Publication

Baton Rouge Business Report; Penny Font, Allan Schilling, Hoa Vu, Holly Duchmann, Jordan Arceneaux, Dillon Lowe, Cynthia Corfah

Covers and feature spreads are dramatically improved. Large, slick images and sophisticated typography grace the covers. The lead story then jumps inside with a thoughtful feature spread and flattering portraits. Dynamic typography and organized design elevate the overall presentation.

23. Journalist of the Year

SMALL

The Business Journal, Fresno; Ben Hensley, reporter

This winner is the definition of a multi-media journalist. He deftly swings from writing features on cause-driven nonprofits to covering young entrepreneurs to posting an Instagram video on a retail store opening. He gives the audience the human angle, paired with strong writing and a light touch.

MEDIUM

Arkansas Business; Mark Friedman, reporter

Nobody knows court cases like this reporter, who wades into complicated and voluminous filings to bring out the story. His work led to a true crime podcast, uncovered infighting inside the Arkansas Supreme Court, and even spotted emerging trends in litigation. He breaks stories and has earned the respect of reporters statewide.

LARGE

Indianapolis Business Journal; Mickey Shuey, reporter

Getting inside the deal is this reporter's specialty. He covers topics at the heart of the Central Indiana economy – real estate, sports business and tourism. He broke news related to a complicated deal on Indianapolis' attempts to lure a soccer franchise, waded into the saga behind how the city landed a semiconductor packaging facility, and produced a very detailed piece on how sports officials landed World Wrestling. The stories are spotlessly reported and written with straightforward authority.

24. Best Website

Bronze: *Crain's Detroit Business*; Staff

The placement of editorial content is both strategic and intentional. Nearly every story has similar items linked, a move to keep readers engaged, moving them deeper and deeper into the site. Writing is tight, and graphics and photos are used to enhance human-centered reporting.

Silver: *Providence Business News*; Chip LeClerc, PBN staff

This site offers a striking combination of impactful local reporting, effective use of visuals and robust listing of events. The design offers an interactive demarcation from the print edition, bringing the voices of the region's business community to life.

Gold: *Business News*; Isabel Vieira, Nadia Budihardjo, Tom Zaunmayr, Jack McGinn, Claire Tyrrell, Liv Declerck, Justin Fris, Sam Jones, Sean Cowan, Nicholas Clarke, Andreas Koepke, Poonan Sanepara, Koby Cooke

Standing in a class of its own, this website delivers a crisp, clear design with a carefully crafted aesthetic. The strategic use of thumbnails combined with a subtle use of color centers the editorial content above all else. The centerpiece delivers a story worthy of attention, and the inclusion of market performance for every public company covered provides added value for busy decisionmakers.

25. Best Magazine

Bronze: *Twin Cities Business*; Staff

This publication's expertise is evident from the opening pages of each issue. The

“Agenda” front-of-book section provides an overview of who and what matters in business in the Twin Cities, with local columnists adding to that authority. The issues and cover stories are robust and visual. The publication’s “Start MN” section is a standout with a variety of focused storytelling and a dynamic design.

Silver: *D CEO Magazine*; Christine Perez, Hamilton Hedrick, Ben Swanger, Will Maddox, Audrey Henvey, Layten Praytor

Packed with profiles about people to know, the clear focus on local movers and shakers brings humanity and energy to this publication. Some highlights include “The Education of Taylor Shead” and “The Invisible Wall,” which address the broad topics of AI and immigration through a people-focused lens. The design is beautiful, especially the use of typography and white space, and the editing and writing show great use of voice.

Gold: *Hawaii Business*; Steve Petranik, Kent Coules, Jeff Sanner, Cynthia Wessendorf, Ryann Coules, Shelby Mattos

This is a fabulous reading experience from cover to cover. Truly engaging, smart design elevates the concepts in feature stories — such as “Gen Z in the Workplace” or “A Renter’s Purgatory.” Cover stories and features are varied and deep. Other stories are rooted in local context and clearly elevate the conversation for the local business community.

26a. Best Newspaper – Small Tabloids

SMALL

Bronze: *Quad Cities Regional Business Journal*; Jennifer DeWitt, editor, Kenda Burrows, senior reporter, Dave Thompson, content editor, Todd Welvaert, news clerk, Becky Lyons, vice president of operations and design, Julia Druckmiller, graphic designer

The publication’s rich community focus highlights unusual businesses and offers good explanatory pieces on such diverse topics as a prison education program and a center to help nonprofits succeed. Consistent design and the bold use of large images made the “Women of Influence” feature a visual standout.

Silver: *Corridor Business Journal*; Alexandra Olsen, editor, Becky Lyons, vice president of operations and design, Richard Pratt, senior reporter, Julia Druckmiller, graphic designer, Parker Jones, reporter and special project manager, Annie Smith Barkalow, reporter

An exuberant Caitlin Clark cover photo provided a great entry point for a compelling feature on Clark’s impact on sports marketing. Each issue highlighted important trends, such as the increased need for orthopedic health care, as well as entertaining features on small businesses and now wildly successful businesses.

Gold: *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*; Vicky Janowski, editor, Cece Nunn, managing editor, Suzi Drake, art director – editorial, Emma Dill, reporter, Audrey Elsberry, reporter

With compelling editorial content and consistent design, this entry stood out for its thoughtful use of imagery and well-composed visual features like the Economic Indicators page. Strong, clear headlines and creative cover concepts—including the umbrella for “Stormy Money”—gave a professional polish. The paper also captures the diversity of its business community, including the arts scene, while sections such as *Biz Leads* and *Business of Life*

offered high reader value.

26b. Best Newspaper - Medium Tabloids

MEDIUM

Bronze: *Worcester Business Journal*; Staff

A vibrant, information-rich design helps readers easily navigate the publication. The real estate and economic forecast edition provided a treasure trove of data, and multiple stories, accompanied by countless photos, capture the area's diversity.

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; Staff

Stories combined striking images with compelling writing, such as a standout narrative on a woman who scammed her former employer and ongoing coverage of a convenience store chain's financial woes. Reporting is frequently supported by helpful graphics. Elegant, documentary-style covers and strong internal design added to the visual appeal, while strong weekly reporting elements provided reasons to read every page.

Gold: *Providence Business News*; Staff

The editorial offerings pulled readers in with fresh local voices and engaging standing features such as "One Last Thing." Stories tackle important issues such as economic forecasts and wealth disparities. Thoughtful cover images and smart design choices like the "Featured Companies" index and the lively "For Starters" section create an inviting reader experience.

26c. Best newspaper — Large tabloids

Bronze: *Los Angeles Business Journal*; staff

Feature packages are filled with information and are thoughtfully designed, using photography and graphics to elevate the experience. The wealthiest Angelenos package offered fascinating details on how the super wealthy climbed to the top. Similarly, the special "Who's Who in Law" section provided an authoritative directory and Q&A's for businesses seeking legal counsel. A standout package on minority-owned businesses offered strong reporting and a valuable lens on economic diversity.

Silver: *Crain's Chicago Business*; staff

Strong photojournalism helps tell stories visually, while interior pages maintain a clean, branded aesthetic. Compelling leads and vivid photography made the "40 Under 40" feature an entertaining, informative read. Readers are also treated each month to well-sourced, thoughtful enterprise stories about such issues as how the airline industry is pursuing equity and diverse hiring despite potential legal threats.

Gold: *Crain's Detroit Business*; Michael Lee, managing editor

This publication delivers visual energy and editorial depth, from the NFL Draft coverage with maps and restaurant picks, to innovative timelines and rich graphics about Michigan Central Station. The intensely local focus also ensures readers learn about everything from retired NFL players' latest ventures to the costly renovation of Aretha Franklin's former mansion.