Celebrating Newspaper Excellence
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**PHOTO CREDITS**

**FRONT COVER**

- Top - House Fire
  - Michael Heller
  - The Sag Harbor Express

- Bottom Left - Protesting
  - Peter R. Barber
  - The Daily Gazette

- Bottom Right - Homeless
  - Adi Talwar
  - Norwood News

**BACK COVER**

- Top Left - Indian
  - Michael Heller
  - The Sag Harbor Express

- 2nd Left - Basketball Tears
  - Peter R. Barber
  - The Daily Gazette

- 3rd Left - Cherubs Eclipse
  - Tim Lamorte
  - The Rivertowns Enterprise

- Bottom Left - Police Saxophone
  - Tim Lamorte
  - The Rivertowns Enterprise

- Top Right - Goat Farm
  - Michael Heller
  - The Sag Harbor Express

- Middle Center - Basketball Dribble
  - Peter R. Barber
  - The Daily Gazette

- 2nd Right - Fireworks on Water
  - Peter R. Barber
  - The Daily Gazette

- Bottom Right - City Streets
  - Adi Talwar
  - Norwood News

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**NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION**

2017 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

**And the Winners Are...**

**NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

The Suffolk Times

**STUART C. DORMAN AWARD**

_**Editorial Excellence**_

The Sag Harbor Express

**JOHN J. EVANS AWARD**

_**Advertising Excellence**_

Dani’s Papers

**2017 WRITER OF THE YEAR**

Frank G. Runyeon

City & State

**2017 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR**

Holly Lipka

Amherst Bee

**2017 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR**

Gavin Menu

The Sag Harbor Express

**2017 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**

Michael Heller

The Sag Harbor Express

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post — First Place

**THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING**

The Highlands Current — First Place, Division 1

The Suffolk Times — First Place, Division 2

Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald — First Place, Division 4

**PAST PRESIDENTS’ AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

The Southampton Press - Western Edition — First Place, Division 1

Rockville Centre Herald — First Place, Division 2

**BEST FRONT PAGE**

Warsaw’s Country Courier — First Place, Division 1

The News-Review — First Place, Division 2

Bay Ridge Courier — First Place, Division 3

The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — First Place, Division 4

**BEST EDITORIAL PAGE**

Press-Republican — First Place

Ithaca Times — Second Place

Gay City News — Third Place

The Suffolk Times — Honorable Mention

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE**

The Sag Harbor Express — First Place

**OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE**

Albany Business Review — First Place, Division 1

The Riverdale Press — First Place, Division 2

**ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE**

Albany Business Review — First Place

The News-Review — Second Place

The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — Third Place
The winners were determined based on the following point system:

- **Each first place award**: 20 points
- **Each second place award**: 10 points
- **Each third place award**: 5 points

**The Top Five — Group or Chain Newspapers Total Contest Points:**

- Times/Review Newspapers — 465 points
  - The Suffolk Times, The News-Review, Shelter Island Reporter
- Herald Community Newspapers — 300 points
- The Press Newspaper Group — 240 points
- NYC Community Media LLC — 215 points
  - Chelsea News, Downtown Express, East Villager, Gay City News, The Villager
- Johnson Newspaper Corporation — 170 points

**The Top Five — Single Flag Newspapers Total Contest Points:**

- The Sag Harbor Express — 255 points
- Albany Business Review — 195 points
- Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post — 125 points
- Press-Republican — 120 points
- TIE: The Highlands Current — 85 points
- TIE: The Daily Gazette — 85 points
- TIE: Livingston County News — 85 points

**The Top Five Newspapers Total Editorial Contest Points:**

- The Sag Harbor Express — 190 points
- The Suffolk Times — 155 points
- The News-Review — 120 points
- Albany Business Review — 110 points
- TIE: Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post — 90 points
- TIE: Press-Republican — 90 points

**The Top Five Newspapers Total Advertising Contest Points:**

- Dan’s Papers — 90 points
- Albany Business Review — 60 points
- The Village Times Herald — 55 points
- TIE: Putnam County News & Recorder — 30 points
- TIE: Syracuse New Times — 30 points
- TIE: Williston Times — 30 points

**NYNAME Winners:**

- TIE: Press-Republican — 30 points
- TIE: Register-Star — 30 points
- TIE: The Daily News — 25 points
- TIE: Finger Lakes Times — 25 points
- TIE: Watertown Daily Times — 25 points
About the Competition...

Category 31 — Feature Story
Congratulations to the first place winners in the most competitive category in the contest!
Division 1: Nicholas Esposito, GreaterLongIsland.com
Division 2: Frank G. Rury, City & State
Division 3: Steve Wick and Grant Parpan, The Suffolk Times
Division 4: Sarah Mattson, The Red Hook Star-Revue
Division 5: Alex Petroski, Port-Times Record
Division 6: Ben Roue, Press-Republican
Division 7: Matt Butler, Ithaca Times

Category 30 — News Story
The quality of the entries in this category was outstanding — congratulations to:
Division 1: The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post
Division 2: Matt Leader, Livingston County News
Division 3: N. Nativy, S. Brinton, E. Hawkins, B. Stieglitz and C. Daly, Freeport Herald Leader

Category 42 — Feature Photo(s)
The judges had a particularly difficult time with this very competitive category — congratulations to:
Division 1: Ben Beagle, Livingston County News
Division 2: Christina Daly, Freeport Herald Leader
Division 3: Rocco Laurenzo, The Daily News

Category 32 — Best News or Feature Series
Many fine examples of excellent research and writing — congratulations to:
Division 1: Antonio Olivero, Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Division 2: Ben Beagle and Matt Leader, Livingston County News
Division 3: Stephanie Reyes, East Meadow Herald
Division 4: Michael Gannon, Queens Chronicle

Category 43 — Sports Action Photo(s)
Catching the right image at the right time — congratulations to:
Division 1: Benjamin Patton, The Walton Reporter
Division 2: Robert O’Rourke, The News-Review
Division 3: Jeffrey Armstrong, Queens Ledger

Category 35 — Best Column
Providing perspective… making the reader think, understand and care — congratulations to:
Division 1: Bob Seidenstein, Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Division 2: Charity Robey, Shelter Island Reporter
Division 3: Michele Herman, The Villager (NYC)

Category 29 — Spot News Coverage
Great coverage of a single news event — congratulations to:
Division 1: The Sag Harbor Express
Division 2: Ben Strack, Jeff Bessen, Scott Brinton, Rockville Centre Herald
Division 3: Denise A. Raymo, Lois Clermont and Cara Chapman, Press-Republican
Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2017
There were 24 entries in this category

**First Place:**
**HOLLY LIPKA, AMHERST BEE**

Reporter Holly Lipka started working at the Bee Group Newspapers on March 2, 2017. For each weekly edition of *The Amherst Bee*, she writes one to three feature stories and produces the Senior News, Library News, What’s Going On and Campus News sections. Every few weeks she also writes a feature article which is published in all nine Bee papers.

Holly is assigned to write business stories for our business section, cover the Village of Williamsville Village Board meetings and write the “Someone You Should Know” column in *The Amherst Bee*. She also edits press releases which includes “Amherst Task Force Healthy Community Healthy Youth” column each month.

Additionally, she posts on *The Amherst Bee*’s Facebook and Twitter pages weekly using the social media management platform, Hootsuite. She also obtains and edits the Amherst Police Department blotter items and process the wedding, anniversary and engagement announcements for all of the Bee papers.

During production, she lays out the lifestyle pages for *The Amherst Bee* which includes the following sections: Senior News, Library News, What's Going On, Youth News, Campus News, “Amherst Task Force Healthy Community Healthy Youth” column, lifestyle articles and photos.

The judges said, “I really liked the range of her writing. Hard news, columns, features. What little photography that was included looked OK, too. An outstanding young professional.”

**Second Place:**
**KATE RIGA, THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION**

Kate Riga, 23, has been a reporter for *The Southampton Press* since June 2017, a month after she graduated with an American Studies degree from Georgetown University. She grew up just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the past seven months, Riga has covered state and national politics for the paper, due to her background working on Capitol Hill during college. She also wrote on a myriad of local issues, including government, crime, education, religion and environmental topics.

While at Georgetown University, Riga wrote an opinion column for *The Hoya* on the intersection of gender and politics. She also interned for America magazine.

The judges said, “Outstanding young talent in all phases. She would be an asset to any staff.”

**Third Place:**
**DAVID YARGER, NIAGARA WHEATFIELD TRIBUNE**

David Yarger is the editor of the *Niagara-Wheatfield/North Tonawanda Tribune*, a weekly newspaper available each Thursday in the Town of Wheatfield, Town of Niagara and City of North Tonawanda.

Yarger has been employed with Niagara Frontier Publications since late August as the editor of the *Niagara-Wheatfield/North Tonawanda Tribune*. Yarger graduated from Niagara University with a degree in communication studies. While at NU, Yarger played a key role in the revival of NU’s student-run newspaper, *The Niagara Wire*. He was part of the sports department for the newspaper.

As a senior in college, Yarger interned at Niagara Frontier Publications and quickly gained professional experiences to benefit his career as writer, reporter and editor. The internship led him to freelance opportunities with Niagara Frontier Publications, the *Buffalo News* and the *Niagara Gazette*.

Although sports writing is his biggest passion, Yarger has tackled political news, community news stories, school activities and local events.

The judges said, “Good work all around. I liked the range. Demonstrated very solid abilities in all phases.”
PAST PRESIDENTS’ AWARD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

This paper includes everything that needs to be here — meeting coverage, police news, etc. — but goes above and beyond with a fantastic collection of stories and features. We loved their Page 1 coverage of a missing dog that was returned to its owners after a frantic search, the touching story about a 102-year-old man who nearly died in a hit-and-run crash while driving his scooter, a local graduate who didn’t let cancer slow her down; and a village clerk meeting a man she helped save. Very strong artwork, especially of the 102-year-old man recovering from the scooter crash and the football team finishing up of an undefeated season. The layout for that team capturing a 12-0 campaign was the fair and away the best we saw. We also liked the contrast with the Historic Opening story. Strong local editorials didn’t back down from tough topics such as opioid and tainted drinking water. Nice collection of pages, good photo shoots. On the Town feature, Advertisements made great use of color. In a collection of outstanding newspapers, we felt this was the best of the best.

SECOND PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead

Many of the papers we reviewed were tabloid sized publications; this one was the most impressive of the bunch. Great Page 1 features about battling traffic — the conclusion of a long-running murder train, and families honored at a local graduation. The reporters did a fantastic job of drawing in the reader in all three stories. We also liked the feature, including a great headline, on the tributes to area’s first black firefighter. Strong local editorials. We liked the Neighborhood News section, from where contributors shared what’s happening in various communities.

THIRD PLACE
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Strong Page 1 features, especially the in-depth look at a lack of affordable housing and we liked the presentation of the刑事案件 Behind the Scenes at a local theatre. We did, however, feel that the ossified front pages were too busy — too much going on — and did struggle to focus on any one aspect of the page. Editorials tackled local issues and we really liked the community engagement, with local residents answering “The Question” and the “Conversation” feature. Great variety of local content, including photo galleries from various events around town. Outstanding photo of the spritely player pumping up his team before a big game.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
Rockville Centre Herald, Rockville Centre

This publication seemed to genuinely engage with the community. They do a great job of finding a story where there normally isn’t one, instead of just covering the graduation they did a great feature on a student having spinal muscular atrophy and overcoming those challenges. The paper’s style is clean so as not to distract from content. Very thorough work. The Arts & Entertainment pages were very vibrant. Good looking ads, well-designed pages. Excellent job all around.

SECOND PLACE
Long Beach Herald, Long Beach

Anthony Rifilato and Bridget Dounes

Great story about the resident still displaced five years after Hurricane Sandy. It’s easy to dig more on the next issue, but this publication did a great job of educating people that five years later there are still problems and people struggling with. Good pictures on front pages. Halloween Safety page was well designed. Creative that stuck out of the bottom so readers easily saw it.

THIRD PLACE
The Independent, East Hampton

A very modern, sleek look that was refreshing to the eyes. The big photos on the front page make you want to start flipping through the pages. The non-traditional look, feel and design works well for them. I felt like I was familiar with the community after reading.

“ROOKIES” REPORTER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE
Ambriah Bee, Williamsville

Holly Lipka

I really liked the range of her writing. Hard news, columns, features. The photography that was included looked good, too. An outstanding young professional.

SECOND PLACE
The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

Kate Riga

Outstanding young talent in all phases. She would be an asset to any staff.

THIRD PLACE
Niagara Wheatfield Tribune, Niagara Falls

David Yarger

Good work all round. I liked the range. Demonstrated very solid abilities in all phases.

HONORABLE MENTION
Williston Times, Williston Park

Janelle Cunnell

A young reporter and writer with very mature talents. Good range, in terms of her ability to take on different kinds of writing assignments.

WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE
City & State, New York

Frank G. Runyon

What separated this writer’s entry from the rest of the field was his depth of reporting. The pieces were engaging, allowing him to keep a reader’s interest while tackling subjects some writers would overcomplicate. His entry was the most versatile in terms of writing entries in both news and feature stories.

SECOND PLACE
The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

Amanda Bernocco

This entry rose to the top because the writer had strong features mixed with strong news stories. The feature on the old school jurnals was fun to read while the “immigrants share their family… story” covered the subject as well as any of the other entries on the topic. The entries showcased the writer’s wide-ranging talents.

THIRD PLACE
Queens Chronicle, Queens

Christopher Barca

This entry shows the writer is an advocate for the community through these strong stories. The writing was supported by good reporting. I would like to have seen another feature story.

HONORABLE MENTION
Albany Business Review, Albany

Chelsea Duia

Nice use of art on banner pages.

SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Gavin Meno

There was equally up at providing an interesting take on feature stories and game stories.

SECOND PLACE
Register-State, Hudson

Brian Radeulietz

This writer constantly brings his subjects to life, making the stories about them, not him.

THIRD PLACE
Syracuse New Times, Syracuse

Matt Michael

This writer gets to the point and doesn’t pull punches with a fun writing style.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Michael Heller

The photographer showed great imagination in creating the images, creative angles, every photo made me feel like I was in the scene.

SECOND PLACE
The Daily Gazzette, Schenectady

Peter R. Barber

The images showed so much emotion. I felt a strong connection to every image.

THIRD PLACE
Norwood News, Bronx

Ash Talbot

The photographer did a great job of turning everyday events into images you wanted dive deep into.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson

Tim Lamore

Some compelling images in the group, nice use of light and space.

BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
Warsaw’s Country Courier, Warsaw

Natalie Muster

Bubly nice use of white space and color. The pages reviewed were easy to navigate, a key element in page design.

SECOND PLACE
The Highland's Current, Phillipston

Kate Vlistrom

Easy to navigate design. Eye catching. Liked the overall look of the pages.

THIRD PLACE
Williston Times, Williston Park

Noah Manskar and Adam Schneider

Good white space use. Liked the use of fine lines to separate content. Easy to find your way around in.

HONORABLE MENTION
Albany Business Review, Albany

Kristina Walter

Nice use of art on banner pages.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead

Lauren Sexton, Joe Werkmester and Steve Wick


SECOND PLACE
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Maria Gennaro and Joe Werkmester

I like the gradients and, Nice layout and design. Good use of color, too.

THIRD PLACE
Buffalo Law Journal, Buffalo

Michael Camfield

Very simple yet elegant design. Like the use of photos. Big and bold.

HONORABLE MENTION
Long Beach Herald, Long Beach

Anthony Rifilato and Bridget Dounes

Very traditional yet appealing design. Nice use of art, color.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE
Bay Ridge Courier, Bay Ridge

Vince DiMiceli and Bill Egbert

Strong headlines supported by good art.

SECOND PLACE
Westbury Times, Westbury

Kevin Schmidt

Headlines are strong and clean. Nice large photo usage.

THIRD PLACE
Chelsea Now, Chelsea

John Napoli and Scott Stiﬄer

Strong art play separated this entry from others.

SECOND PLACE
Willowtown Daily Times, Watertown

Elements play well. Likely could have challenged for first but would suggest different play on elections next time around.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

Creative masthead and nice use of whitespace. Great unique photos.

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

FIRST PLACE
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Editorial topics are varied, well written, on point and encourage action. Strong local focus. Community involvement is obvious in letters and guest columnists, adding varied voices. Headlines are clearly written. Design leans toward simple/traditional, but it is clean so as not to distract from content.

SECOND PLACE
Ithaca Times, Ithaca

Content is witty, pointed and original. Not afraid to take risks. Visually interesting throughout the section. Illustrations and cartoons set it apart from other entries. Topics could be more varied.

THIRD PLACE
Gay City News, New York

Paul Schindler, Kelly Cogswell, Ed Silow, Nathan Riley and Suraj Day

Brilliant commentary from a clearly identified standpoint that represents its readership. While writing is thoughtful and high informative, it is also often longer than needed. Headlines are entertaining. Design lacks for strong visuals and overall planning.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Could be more visually compelling, but the content is rich with local content that is sure to impact readers. The robust and thoughtful letters indicate a high level of engagement with the community.
**Writer of the Year, 2017**

There were 46 entries in this category

**First Place:**

**FRANK G. RUNYEON, CITY & STATE**

Frank covers state politics and government with an emphasis on in-depth features and investigative reporting. He writes about intrigue in Albany and beyond, asking how government agencies and policies impact all New Yorkers, occasionally delving into national issues from an Empire State angle. Frank has worked on investigative stories for *National Geographic*, *The New York Times* and *NBC News*. He was a finalist for the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists in 2015 and has received several New York Press Association awards. Frank attended Columbia Graduate School of Journalism in 2012, fell in love with Harlem and never left.

The judges said, “What separated Mr. Runyeon’s entry from the rest of the field was his depth of reporting. The pieces were engaging, allowing him to keep a reader’s interest while tackling subjects some writers would overcomplicate. His entry was the most versatile in terms of strong entries in both news and feature stories.”

**Second Place:**

**AMANDA BERNOCCO, THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION**

Amanda Bernocco, 25, has been a reporter for *The Southampton Press* since June 2015, after she graduating with a journalism degree from Long Island University. She grew up in Shirley, New York — just a short drive outside of the Hamptons. Throughout the past two years at *The Southampton Press*, Bernocco has covered an assortment of local issues including government, education, and environmental concerns. While still at Long Island University, Bernocco worked as the managing editor of *The Pioneer*, a student-run weekly newspaper, and as the assistant news director at WCAP, a student-run radio station. Bernocco also interned for Newsday where she wrote about the real estate market.

The judges said, “Ms. Bernocco’s entry rose to the top because she had strong features mixed with strong news stories. Her feature on the old school journals was fun to read while her “Immigrants share their fears...” story covered the subject as well as any of the other entries on the topic.

**Third Place:**

**CHRISTOPHER BARCA, QUEENS CHRONICLE**

Christopher Barca, a native of New Fairfield, Connecticut, joined the Queens Chronicle as a reporter in October 2013 after graduating from St. John’s University that May. He has since earned the title of editor, covering all aspects of nine Queens neighborhoods as well as borough sporting events.

During his tenure at the Chronicle, Barca has finished first and third in the Sports Writer of the Year category, while contributing pieces to award-winning Chronicle submissions in coverage categories ranging from elections and politics to religion and health.

Barca lives in Flushing, Queens with his wife, Amy.

The judges said, “Mr. Barca’s entry shows he is an advocate for his community through his news stories. His writing showed he did the job of reporting well. I would have liked to have seen him include another feature story.”

**Honorable Mention:**

**CHELSEA DIANA, ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW**

Chelsea Diana covers banking and technology for *The Albany Business Review*. She joined the Albany Business Review Nov. 20, 2014 following graduation from Boston University. She interned at *The Portland Press Herald* in Portland, Maine; *The Lowell Sun*; 90.9 WBUR in Thomson Reuters in London and *The Albany Times Union*.
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE
Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walker
Love, love, love the layout of this paper and the use of graphics within the articles! Each page is clean, great use of color, throughout and easy to read. The large photos surrounding the articles grab your attention and the layout of the advertisements popped. The actual size of the paper allows for convenient handling. An anonymous vote for first place. Congrats on a job well done!

SECOND PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Large, well reproduced and well-thought-out photos with good local interest earned the News-Review second place. Photo pages showed a nice variety of photos, and didn’t overwhelm the reader with more photos than needed to tell the story.

THIRD PLACE
The Southampton Press, Southampton
Strong images, well designed, gave this newspaper the third-place honor. The reproduction suffered a bit, likely due to perspective considerations, but photos provided good content with good captions.

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
Albany Business Review, Albany
Melissa Mangini and Kristina Walker
This paper has a very modern overall design. It has great graphics and photography throughout. It keeps you interested and wanting to read more. I really liked the 40 under 40 special section.

SECOND PLACE
Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler, Michael Shirey and Marcus Ramos
The overall look of the feature pages are well designed. They have good use of space and color, which draws your eye in as a reader.

THIRD PLACE
The Spotlight, Delmar
Michael Hallarey
The best parts of this paper were the events calendar, headlines and page headers. I liked that the pages weren’t taken over by a huge amount of text. There was a good variety of ads to articles.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Michael Hubbard, Richard Stein and Meeka Fishlen
This paper has a very modern masthead that lends you into a well laid out paper. The paper has good typography throughout and especially enjoyed the design and concept of the Mon and Pop Store.

SECOND PLACE
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
The feature pages of this newspaper are very well designed and draw you in as a reader. The overall graphics throughout the sports section are also a nice touch. If the feature pages and photos on the front page of this paper were better designed, they would be taking home first place.

THIRD PLACE
The best part about this paper was by far the Hampton Vocations magazine. This publication was well designed and popped with color throughout.

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE
Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walker
The paper has a great use of color throughout. The Hamptons Vacations magazine. This website did what other sites did, but in a way that was easier to navigate and much less overwhelming. The site also incorporated some strong multimedia features, enhancing the user experience. Strong local content was easy to find.

SECOND PLACE
Ithaca Times, Ithaca
This website’s story layout was an excellent way to showcase photos and draw the reader in (the way a photo flows through a story). It was also nice to see print editions being tied into the site. The site was easy to navigate and served as a good guide for the local area as well.

THIRD PLACE
Register-Star, Hudson
Navigation, content and ease of use were great, but could be a little better. The multimedia section was strong, which led to it being in the top three.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
The site was engaging and navigation was clean for a site with a lot of categories. However, it seems as if everything is given the same weight. It’s like a front page with headlines and stories that are the exact same size. It would have been in the top three had it had some form of multimedia (or some that I could find).

THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Press, Altamont
The power — and the importance — of community journalism rang true in this entry. Getting a result that will save lives is a tremendous. Hopefully it brought about change in how organizations respond to being more accessible towards the public.

SECOND PLACE
The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Press, Altamont
Elizabeth Floyd Mair
Many papers would have written about the death of Justus Booze with adequate coverage, but this writer didn’t stop there. She made the effort to dig deep into the issue and approach it from several angles. She shows what initiative and hard work can accomplish.

THIRD PLACE
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Stephen J. Koz, Kathryn G. Mem and Christine Sampson
The third place award moved away from in-depth to the other half of the category — in-depth. This paper shows how to take a local event — one that could have been covered in a single story — and turn it into a much more meaningful report. The stories approach the topic from various directions and it’s all put together well.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Steve Wick, Grant Parpan and Kristen Matus
I was way into the third. I chose would jump out and grab me, but it didn’t happen until final entry of the contest was opened — the story about the disappearance of Louise Petretic. Not only is this the most compelling entry submitted, it also shows the best design work, and design can play a big part in drawing in a reader. The staff created an excellent report. It’s a job very well done.

SECOND PLACE
The Spotlight, Delmar
James Franco
The reporter showed what digested documentation can produce. The series provides an exhaustive look at questions surrounding a state agency. The stories are well written and lead readers fully informed.

THIRD PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Joe Weremeister and Kelly Zegers
The writers take on teen suicide issue from many angles, putting together a report that should provide insight for readers. The story is clearly written and, as a bonus, attractively packaged. These writers give a strong example of how to look behind the obvious and take a deeper look at an issue.

HONORABLE MENTION
Albany Business Review, Albany
Michael DeMani

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE
The Valley News, Elizabethtown
Pete DeMola
This series of stories not onlyflags a problem in the community about the decline in home care services for the sick and elderly, but puts a face on the problem and a ray of light for solutions. A powerful collection of stories.

SECOND PLACE
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Michael Wright
Reporters covered important issues, including taxes with the reassessment call, a budget turnaround, a changing political scene and a look at political ethics with the County-Election Elections. Stories emphasize the bigger picture on what they mean to the readers.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Villager (NYC), New York
Lincoln Anderson and Tequila Minsky
These articles put a local face on a national issue through some aggressive reporting and strong interviews.

COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
Albany Business Review, Albany
There was obviously plenty of research behind this story and a solid explanation of the impact of the controversial tax exemption. Graphic helpful to visually tell the story.

SECOND PLACE
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Michael Wright
Reporters covered important issues, including taxes with the reassessment call, a budget turnaround, a changing political scene and a look at political ethics with the County-Election Elections. Stories emphasize the bigger picture on what they mean to the readers.

THIRD PLACE
The Rivermont Enterprise, Hastings and Mamaroneck
Articles reflect in depth reporting, especially on the impact of the bridge repair project, the veterans fund, and the proposed court consolidation.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Highland Current, Phildelphia
Liz Schexnacht Armstrong and Chip Rose
Interesting and well explained. However, some of the key issues and comments come late in the stories. Should move this up, such as to the home’s encroachment of the historical right-of-way, and reaction to the delay in reviewing the Horton Road project.
Sports Writer of the Year, 2017
There were 18 entries in this category

First Place:
Gavin Menu, The Sag Harbor Express

Gavin became a sports writer shortly after graduating from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he played four years of varsity football. His first job was at The Independent newspaper where he met his future wife, Kathryn. Gavin, 41, moved to The Southampton Press in 2004 and began writing for the news section as well as the sports section, winning his first NYPA award for Best Feature Story for a piece he did on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion (the piece was heavily edited by his now-News Editor and NYPA's 2016 Writer of the Year, Stephen J. Kotz).

By 2007, Gavin and Kathryn realized their reporter salaries combined would not sustain a life on the East End of Long Island, so Gavin moved over to sales, where he helped successfully launch The East Hampton Press. He also continued to write as much as possible, since the editorial side of the business remained his true passion.

In 2012, Bryan Boyhan, the then-publisher and editor of The Sag Harbor Express, asked Gavin to run his sales department at The Express where Kathryn was already entrenched as a long time reporter. In 2014, Gavin and Kathryn became co-publishers and today continue to work-side-by-side with Boyhan. Over the last five years, their Express Magazine series has nearly doubled in terms of circulation and advertising sales. The newspaper has seen sales increases year-over-year for four consecutive years.

The judges said, “Gavin is equally adept at providing an interesting take on feature stories and game stories.”

Second Place:
Brian Radewitz, Register-Star

Brian Radewitz has been covering local and national sports since graduating from St. John's University in 2006. Brian has been working for the Register-Star and The Daily Mail newspapers for 10 years and worked as a publications manager for seven magazines on Long Island for a year. He has also written for national magazines, websites and blogs and is the current sports editor for Columbia-Greene Media.

The judges said, “Brian consistently brings his subjects to life, making the stories about them, not him.”

Third Place:
Matt Michael, Syracuse New Times

Matt Michael is an award-winning journalist who has been writing professionally since the mid-1980s, even before he graduated from Pennsylvania State University as a member of the Kappa Tau Alpha National Journalism Society. He spent nearly 20 years as a sports writer, news writer and investigative reporter at The Post-Standard in Syracuse, N.Y. — a newspaper that regularly ranked among the nation’s best mid-size newspapers during his time there. Matt currently works as a freelance writer for the Syracuse New Times newspaper, The Sports Xchange and other media outlets, and co-hosts a baseball radio show on ESPN radio in Syracuse.

Now that his two children and two stepchildren have graduated from college, Matt lives quietly in Liverpool, N.Y., with wife Robin and dog Griffin.

The judges said, “Matt gets to the point and doesn’t pull punches with a fun writing style.”
SECOND PLACE
North Country This Week, Potsdam
Jimmy Lawton and Andy Gardner

One of the most important responsibilities of a newspaper is to show readers exactly how local government operates, be it spending, decision making or public safety and trust. This entry takes that responsibility seriously and successfully. The newspaper’s readers have a better understanding of their local government because these reporters did an outstanding job.

THIRD PLACE
The News, Monticello
Bob Quinn and Nancy Kye

This is an excellent example of thorough reporting. The reporters were able to leave readers needing more information on the subjects. They presented them in a well-written, easy to understand way and left me wanting to know more. But the best part about this piece is the depth. That is what good journalism does, it makes readers want to come back for more.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Smithtown News, Smithtown
David Ambruso

Readers also become the subject of news stories sometimes, their passion for knowing turns into passion that puts them into the story. This author does a great job of capturing all sides of the story without losing the passion of those involved. I felt like I had a vested interest in the firehouse.

COVERAGE OF BUSINESS, FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC NEWS
First Place
Albany Business Review, Albany
Standout entries shined in both their depth and accessibility to readers. Lengthy stories can become a slog, whereas these pieces were nicely segmented, with crisp writing and organized to be highly informative. The look into the wedding industry was particularly interesting and well-done.

First Place
North Country This Week, Potsdam
Andy Gardner, Jimmy Lawton, Matt Lindse and Jimmy Lawton

Eminently above the rest by providing serious depth to the reporting. Particularly liked the material in going after the details of an ambulance flight. At every turn seemed to seek and get more answers for each story. Great coverage.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Bill Buell, Jeff Wilkin, Geraldine Freedman and Karen Byrlander

Awesome photos, accompanied by so many in-depth articles. Good photos! Photos of the audiowinners, dancers and from Vietnam showed the artistic talent of the photographer.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Michael Teater

Nice photos and a insightful story on the characters portraying a beloved classic.

COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
First Place
The Suffolk Times, Riverhead
Nick Reynolds

Strong art, attractive design and nice use of pull quotes and graphics help break up the gray and draw readers in to important topics like water quality, flooding, energy consumption and climate change.

Second Place
The Southampton Press, Westhampton Beach
Amanda Bernocco, Kate Riga and Erin McKinley

Strong art helps along interesting stories about the next generation of pine trees and an open-sea fish farm. A map is also helpful in understanding a story about land development.

Overage
GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue

Mike Smolinski and Melissa Koening

The “Unbecome-able” headline about a live hunting being given a rough time is probably my favorite of the entire competitions. The others are strong, as well.

HEADLINE WRITING
First Place
The Broodo Paper, Brooklyn
Vin DiMeece, Anthony Rotanov and Leah Mitch

Punchy, descriptive, on-point headlines show a lot of thought and creativity. Even the headlines that weren’t featured were crafted remarkably. Well done.

Second Place
The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Sarah Felder

Big, bold caps for these headlines. These short sentences are well written and appropriate.

Third Place
The News, Monticello
Scott Stifler

Smart headlines through and through. Both selections from this newspaper were very good.

HONORABLE MENTION
Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald, Lynbrook
Mike Smolinski and Melissa Koening

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EXCELLENCE AWARDS
DIVISION 1
First Place
Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Joseph Ficcarillo, Erika Norton, Line Smith-Hanchank and Pamela Cherigos

The stories here are well-written, well-sourced and do a good job of catching broad issues in a local context.

Second Place
Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Nick Reynolds and Matt Butler

There’s some exceptional reporting and writing here, particularly in the piece on the service program in New Orleans.

Third Place
Bellmore Herald Life, Bellmore
Erica Norton, Brian Schilteger and Scott Brinton

These are well executed stories. The series on trends in present-day education, in particular, is ambitious and does a nice job of putting local events into a broader context.

COVERAGE OF THE ARTS
First Place
Colonie-Loudonville Spotlight, Colonie
Michael Hallisy and Caitlin Lembo

Five photos and as art as well but strong headlines made this entry an entertaining and an enjoyable read.

Second Place
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Alison Resone and Brian PJ Cronin

The writing was amusing and very enjoyable to read. The play on headlines - “Down the Rabbit Hole with Ron English” — and subhed for “Sharing the Best” also made the product fun to read.

Third Place
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michelle Travers and Annette Hinkle

Excellent product. The use of pull quotes, headlines and strong writing skills makes this product attractive to view and interesting to read.

HONORABLE MENTION
Livingston County News, Gernesee
Ben Beagle

There’s a lot of text for the San Gennaro story but the use of Q&A made it an easy read. I like the combination of artistic stories and hometown newsy briefs.

DIVISION 2
First Place
DownTown Express, New York City
Charlotte Stuber, Stephanie Bowers, Pamela Perl, Truck S.D., Scott Stifler and Stephanie Buhmann

Great local art, loved the story on tattoos, especially. Compelling photos.

Second Place
Chelsea New, Chelsea
Stephanie Buhmann, G. Bubry, Sean Egan, R. Richardson and Scott Stifler

It’s nice to read about an artist overcoming adversity to succeed.

Third Place
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Bill Buell, Jeff Wilkin, Geraldine Freedman and Karen Byrlander

Awesome photos, accompanied by so many in-depth articles. Good photos! Photos of the audiowinners, dancers and from Vietnam showed the artistic talent of the photographer.

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COVERAGE OF HEALTH, HEALTH CARE & SCIENCE
First Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Rebecca Zellers, Joe Werbenziner, Nicole Smith and Krystyn Massa

The stories fit the category but are noteworthy for putting real people into them. Unlike many stories that focus on comments from officials, I think it was terrific that the stories featured real residents who suffered from diseases, to overcome a terrible accident injury or volunteered for hours at their area hospital.

Second Place
Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Nick Reynolds, Matt Butler and Austin Lamb

A very interesting, informative mix of stories ranging from an in war on global warming, the evolution of apples, the impact of a food pantry closing on local residents and pressure impact of global warming on the Finger Lakes area. Well thought out and written with local connections in mind.

Third Place
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Michael Turton, Brian PJ Cronin, Chip Roue and Jeff Simms

Interesting selection of stories about natural hazards from ticks and snakes to a doctor who sees patients by subscription, medical marijuana and concerns about cuts to ACA. Well-written and informative with plenty of graphics/photos on the snake and tick stories.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Sara Fox

Sara Fox as a good job as a column looking at infant mortality rates, particularly in the African American community.

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Photographer of the Year, 2017
There were 20 entries in this category

First Place:
MICHAEL HELLER, THE SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

Michael Heller is a graduate of Bard College and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. He has won numerous awards from NYPA including Photographer of the Year in 2011 and 2014, second place Photographer of the Year in 2010 and 2015, and third place in 2013.

He has been an active firefighter for more than 25 years, and is a past president of the International Fire Photographers Association.

The judges said, “The photographer showed great imagination in creating the images, creative angles, every photo made me feel like I was in the scene.”

Second Place:
PETER R. BARBER, THE DAILY GAZETTE

Peter Barber was born and raised in Buffalo and started his career in photography as a freelancer for The Associated Press and The Buffalo News. He moved to Watertown in 1987 and joined The Watertown Daily Times as a staff photographer, where he worked for nearly 15 years. In 2002 he moved to Schenectady and began working as a photographer for The Daily Gazette. Peter is best known for his spot news coverage of fires and crimes along with any sporting event; his favorite to cover! He has received dozens of Associated Press awards in recognition of his photography. He also worked as a volunteer firefighter for 10 years at Niskayuna Fire District 1 before retiring in 2012.

The judges said, “The images showed such emotion. I felt a connection to every image.”

Third Place:
ADI TALWAR, NORWOOD NEWS

Adi Talwar, a 13-year Bronx resident, was born in Delhi, India, to an artist mother and engineer father. He has been involved with art and engineering all his life. During his 25-year career as an artist, he has expressed himself as a designer, model maker and photographer.

Over the last five years, Mr. Talwar has been working on his awareness of light and the moment. He has received awards for his photojournalism and has been published in the Norwood News, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Daily News, City Limits Magazine, Next American City Magazine, MetroFocus, WNYC and several other news magazines and local papers.

Mr. Talwar lives in the Bronx with his artist wife and bubbly beautiful daughter.

Judges said, “The photographer did a great job of turning everyday events into images you wanted dive deeper into.”

Honorable Mention:
TIM LAMORTE, THE RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Tim Lamorte has worked as a newspaper editor for more than 20 years, including 17 at The Rivertowns Enterprise. He has won awards from the New York Press Association (NYPA) and the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA). In the NYPA’s annual Better Newspaper Contest, he has placed five times in the Photographer of the Year category, including first place in 2015.

Tim has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism. He is a lifelong resident of Westchester County.

Judges said, “Some compelling images in the group, nice use of light and space.”
**EXCELLENCE AWARD**

**COVERAGE OF CRIME/ POLICE/COURTS**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan, Steve Wick
Kelly Zegers and Taylor K. Yespy
None of the crime stories really featured the story on the police officers. I'm sure it took a lot of time and legwork to compile that story which was fascinating.

**SECOND PLACE**
The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
I particularly liked the narrative shown with the story regarding the prison and families of inmates. Also, the stories about the different outcomes for defendants in two cases puts those issues in perspective for readers by going beyond just stating the facts.

**THIRD PLACE**
The Highlands Current, Phlipstostown
Michael Turtor, Jeff Simms, Brian Pf Crenning and Chip Rowe
Excellent job trying to get your arms around the topic and different views on how to address that issue. I completely enjoyed the story on the game officers. The KKK history was also interesting.

**DIVISION 2**

**FIRST PLACE**
Queens Chronicle, Queens
Christopher Barca, Ryan Brady, Mike Garrison and Anthony O'Reilly
Some interesting takes for readers who might not expect this. Problems explained well in "Creedmore."

**SECOND PLACE**
Andrew Denney
Interesting that the scenes look at state court system and how it impacts everyday people in ways they would not necessarily expect.

**THIRD PLACE**
Oceanside Inland Park Herald, Oceanside
Pete Belfiore, Zach Gottheiner-Cohen and Ben Strack
Solid reporting.

**HONORABLE MENTION**
Register-Star, Hudson
Amanda Parcell

**COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Glynis Hart
Wonderful writing about real, hardworking people. Loved the photos, as well.

**SECOND PLACE**
Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Matt Butler and Isabella Gruldon. Pazz Immigration is such a relevant topic right now. The author's extra effort to dig in to what it's like to live in the shadows just to make a decent living was appreciated. Community gardens are popping up all over and this well written story highlights their importance.

**THIRD PLACE**
The Freeman's Journal, Cooperstown
Libby Cudmore
Great story about buffalo. Great photos.

**DIVISION 2**

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Solid reporting.

**HONORABLE MENTION**
Register-Star, Hudson
Amanda Parcell

**COVERAGE OF RELIGION**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
If two issues are representative of the year of the year, the paper seems truly invested in religious news, with multiple stories per issue just from day-to-day beat coverage. The most comprehensive coverage of any entry.

**SECOND PLACE**
The Photo News, Monroe
Bo Quinn and Doug Feiden
These stories do a nice job of explaining the impact the Kiryas Joel community is having in the area. The double-track graphic accompanying the pipeline story was a nice touch.

**THIRD PLACE**
Queens Chronicle, Queens
Anthony O'Reilly
Two religion stories that aren't entirely about religion. One deals with congregants stopping pans to church, and the other deals with beach clean-up.

**SPORTS FEATURE**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
Albany Business Review, Albany
Rob K. Cooper
An excellent, in-depth and entertaining look at how a minor league team makes it all work. The photos and graphs are easy to follow and loads of add value to the story. At a time when getting the most for your dollar at a sporting event is important to the average fan, this story does a great job looking at all the ValleyCats do to keep their fans coming to the ballpark.

**SECOND PLACE**
Lake Placid News, Lake Placid
Andy Flynn
This writer does a fantastic job covering all aspects of this once in a lifetime experience for hockey players. The paper covers it all, from the camps, to the Miracle on Ice chaos to the historical significance of the Miracle on Ice itself. Kudos for putting it all to provide superb coverage of this event.

**THIRD PLACE**
Albany Business Review, Albany
Rob K. Cooper
A great look at the importance of sports and football to the Albany area. The pull quotes and graphics accompanying the story add great perspectives and the story shows on a variety of scenes to get to the heart of what is going on all about a love of the game.

**DIVISION 2**

**FIRST PLACE**
Register-Star, Hudson
Brian Radelet
The writer brings history to life in telling the story of Sonny Arnold, giving meaning to a name on an aud.

**SECOND PLACE**
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Joey LaFrance
The next thing I am doing is checking out the Babe Ruth website, Joey adds depth to a great American hero and his legacy.

**THIRD PLACE**
Register-Star, Hudson
Tim Martin
The writer puts me in the car with Kid's family, then in the gym and in the classroom with his hopes and future on the line.

**SPORTS COVERAGE**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
The News-Review, Riverhead
Tim Garrison, Kelly Zegers, Joe Werkenmeister and Grant Parpan
A well written mix of stories that look at a variety of local political issues from the election of the first woman to run as a mayoral candidate, to a campaign finance issue, to a judge deciding a variety of local political issues from the election to the game officers. The paper covers it all, from the hockey players. The paper covers it all, from the campers, to the Miracle on Ice alums to the hockey players. The paper covers it all, from the campers, to the Miracle on Ice alums to the hockey players. The paper covers it all, from the campers, to the Miracle on Ice alums to the hockey players.

**SECOND PLACE**
The Rivertowns Enterprise, Edgemere
Tim Gannon
The reporter did a great job pulling together so many details trying to make sense of this tragic event.

**THIRD PLACE**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Tom Carr
Author thoroughly described the two rescues, the challenges in both and the involvement of the rescues. Several of those involved were interviewed and added to the story. The writer did a fine job separating the two incidents while also connecting them.

**HONORABLE MENTION**
The South Hampton Press-Western Edition, Southampton
Greg Weidner
The reporter did a great job pulling together so many details trying to make sense of this tragic event.

**DIVISION 2**

**FIRST PLACE**
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Denise A. Raymo, Lois Clermont and Cara Chapman
A fine job overall, including a report of the shooting, response by friends and acquisition of a story about the victim to the victim’s workplace. Well written.

**SECOND PLACE**
Queens Chronicle, Queens
Anthony O'Reilly
Very thorough coverage on the suspect's arrest and great use of background on the murder, and the issue of DNA profiling. Also, a lot of work was done on gathering information and quotes.

**THIRD PLACE**
Queens Courier, Queens
Suzanne Monseresit and Robert Cazanske
Very clean writing. Sideline on the driver's troubled driving history brings to light an important issue in transportation safety.

**HONORABLE MENTION**
Norwood News, Bronx
David Cruz
Solid reporting in a difficult situation.
Best Front Page, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
Natalie Muster, Warsaw’s Country Courier

“Really nice use of white space and color. The pages reviewed were easy to navigate, a key element in page design.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
Lauren Sisson, Joe Werkmeister, Steve Wick, The News-Review

“Good use of white space and color. Coherent layout. Nice presentation.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3
Vince DiMiceli, Bill Egbert, Bay Ridge Courier

“Strong headlines supported by good art.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4
The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition

“Well-defined centerpieces highlighted by good headline writing. Elements play well together top to bottom.”
**NEWS STORY**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Altamont Enterprise and Albany Business Review

**Second Place**
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

**Third Place**
Albany Business Review, Albany

**HONORABLE MENTION**
The Highlands Current, Philipstown

**DIVISION 2**

**FIRST PLACE**
City & State, New York
Frank J. Runyon

**Second Place**
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Peter Stevenson

**Third Place**
Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo
Shelly Ferullo

**HONORABLE MENTION**
Nadya Nataly, Scott Brinton

**DIVISION 3**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Steven Wick and Grant Parpan

**Second Place**
The Altamont Enterprise and Albany Business Review

**Third Place**
The Portland Press-Herald, Portland

**HONORABLE MENTION**
GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue

**DIVISION 4**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn
Sarah Mattус

**Second Place**
The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn
Emily Glazer

**Third Place**
The Yorktown News, Yorktown
Gabriel Rubino

**HONORABLE MENTION**
The Journal, White Plains

**FEATURE STORY**

**DIVISION 1**

**FIRST PLACE**
GreatPlains.com, Patchogue

**Second Place**

**Third Place**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**DIVISION 2**

**FIRST PLACE**

**Second Place**

**Third Place**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**DIVISION 3**

**FIRST PLACE**

**Second Place**

**Third Place**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**DIVISION 4**

**FIRST PLACE**

**Second Place**

**Third Place**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn

**Second Place**
The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn

**HONORABLE MENTION**
The Independent, East Hampton
**Best Sports Action Photo(s), 2017**

**First Place — Division 1**

**Benjamin Patton**  
**The Walton Reporter**

“This was a tough category to judge, there was a lot of really nice work. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong peak action and a cutline that provided good relevant information. The image nicely summed up a tough loss.”

**First Place — Division 2**

**Robert O’Rourke**  
**The News-Review**

“Photographer captured a great moment of peak action. This image quickly rose to the top.”

**First Place — Division 3**

**Jeffrey Armstrong**  
**Queens Ledger**

“The drama of this moment, and the clear view of Hatley while Charlo celebrates, make this the clear top of the list.”
This was an interesting story to
this. I loved his column about U-M football.

These editorials come from a board with a clear,
now is all the more important

The author of these editorials showed good writing

Heck of a year at your town’s high school.

The Villager (NYC), New York

Register-Star, Hudson

The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn

“predeceased.” Wonderful portraits for each.

more than just a surface story (who-what-where-

comprehensive and disorienting — don’t turn over this key

This is a tremendously sad story but well

The writer crafts two solid obituaries that

engaging it was. Kudos.

This was tough: it was my initial first choice.

This was an outstanding example of what

job well done.

The visuals and

In an area where the natural resources are

That is an outstanding example of what

I think I know some of those people (in my

Now, THIS is thinking outside the box to tell a

Saranac Lake

The Villager (NYC), New York

In fact, the submission abruptly ended with

Now I could see why he was quite

With good supporting art and page play.

BUSINESS

The Spotlight, Delmar

Saranac Lake

Villager (NYC), New York

This was an outstanding example of what

This is the kind of in-depth reporting

In this story, the writer

Not really hit home as we all have someone close to us

Second Place

The Daily News, Batavia

Sharon Larsen and Michael Mesterly

These editorials come from a board with a clear,

Second Place

The West Coast League, Seattle

Second Place

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These editorials come from a board with a clear,
Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting, 2017

First Place — Division 1
The Highlands Current

“The staff of the Highlands Current turned out a series of stories and graphics that perfectly demonstrates what the Thomas G. Butson Award is all about. It’s an exhaustive report about opioids that’s written well and laid out attractively. Excellent job.”

First Place — Division 2
The Suffolk Times

“I was hoping that the #1 choice would jump out and grab me, but it didn’t happen until final entry of the contest was opened — the Suffolk Times story about the disappearance of Louise Pietrewicz. Not only is this the most compelling entry submitted, it also shows the best design work, and design can play a big part in drawing in a reader. The Times staff created an excellent report. It’s a job very well done.”

First Place — Division 4
Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald

“This is what being a newspaper is all about. Making staff available to hear issues in a community. Following up on a tip of a scam artist. Nailing the scam artist and spurring criminal action. I’m very excited about awarding this series of reports 1st place for showing the need of a strong free press.”

This is the first year for the Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting. The award was established by Elizabeth M. Butson, former co-publisher of The Villager and Downtown Express, in memory of her late husband, who was a retired New York Times assistant news editor, former managing editor of the Toronto Star, and editor of The Villager and Downtown Express.
**Best Column**

**Division 2**

**First Place**
Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Charity Robey

"In all the local newspaper contests, I have never had such a difficult time choosing winners. There are so many excellent entries. New York is blessed with great columnists. This writer gets the top nod. I really like her stuff and it would be enjoyable to meet the her. I like the way she sees things...and puts it into print."

**Second Place**
Nassau Herald, Lawrence Randi Kreiss

These columns are really compelling. They’re well written, like so many entries, and a lot of fun to read. The writer brings a lot of thought together to tell a good story.

**Third Place**
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Kelly Ann Smith

The writer offers a broad range of topics and really puts her thought down well. Once again, excellent writing. Every one of these writers are such good story-tellers.

**Honorable Mention**
Merrick Herald Life, Merrick
Scott Brinton


**Division 3**

**First Place**
The Villager (NYC), New York
Michele Herman

Family rooted in local interest, the columns displayed the sense that the writer was willing to dive into the community, talk with anyone and everyone and distill into something with meaning — delightfully local, thoughtful collecting of expertise. I truly wanted to keep reading. Great writing, great voice with high impact.

**Second Place**
The Villager (NYC), New York
Carl Rosenstrom

Another strong, distinctive voice, aimed at having a local impact. I may have disagreed with some of his opinions, but good writing and well-thought-out ethos kept me reading.

**Third Place**
Gay City News, New York
Kelly Cooperman

A near-tie for second, some of the most heartfelt, biting and inspired writing in the entire category. Deeply personal, great writing.

**Honorable Mention**
Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Cheryl Gittleman

Caught me off guard with the willingness to stretch up the format in each entry. I liked that originality and I’d wager the readers too. The classy one with strong this one.

**Editorial Cartoon**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Carol Coogan

Powerful illustration really draws readers into the accompanying opinions.

**Second Place**
East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora
Jim Fenfield

Tackles one on a universal issue.

**Third Place**
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Clay Jones

Creative way of describing a serious topic.

**Honorable Mention**
Williston Times, Williston Park
Matt Bodkin


**Division 2**

**First Place**
Cheyenne New, Cheyenne
Max Barthak

Although I did not see much relevance in the drawings to the red people, I felt that the use of Donald Trump and Richard Nixon as Eleventh Sonne and the Bob Marley was very appropriate for this point in time.

**Second Place**
The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Sylvan Migdal

I like the use of light-hearted humor contrasting the shining towers with the unknowns of a marker river.

**Third Place**
The Villager (NYC), New York
Ira Blumenthal

Amusing use of hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil and Trump’s ability to let things roll off his back.

**Best Use of Video**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan, Krysten Massa and Steve Wick

Incredibly compelling work. Strong impact from the video content in this series. Excellent journalism on display. Well done!

**Second Place**
Albany Business Review, Albany
Mike DeSoto

The video did a remarkable job of bringing me, an outsider, into the issue of parking in Troy. Very creative work with a strong impact. Solid work all around on this piece.

**Third Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Dana Shaw

Creative and effective piece that truly delivered the intended message very well. Excellent camera work and editing on display.

**Honorable Mention**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Krysten Massa

Really excellent video that told a great story.

**Best Conquered Target E-mail**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

The two pieces of art tie together nicely. The man in the bottom photo leaning on the lady, looking exhausted at the airport. This photo captures the essence of the scene — the surprising aspect of it a step above the rest.

**Second Place**
The News-Review, Riverhead
Michelena De Fonseca

I like the way they set this up so they could obtain data from others interested, and could follow up with Great strategy.

**Third Place**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Michelena De Fonseca

Nice and clean ad. The 10% offer jumps off the ad at the reader. Good they are actually asking the reader to obtain email address for follow-up.

**Honorable Mention**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

Nice art of a party, but I think the gest control aspect of the ad gets lost. The copy about natural materials is totally over hidden by the rest of the ad.

**Best Website Design**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Good looking newspaper, reader responsive, I like how it was easy to sign up for email blasts as well as participate in the Poll of the day.

**Second Place**
Westchester County Business Journal, White Plains
Dan Viteri

I like the way this site introduced the various products when you entered the homepage. Very easy to navigate and easy to read.

**Third Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

Good photos. Easy to navigate.

**Honorable Mention**
The Daily Mail, Carkill

Easy to navigate without a lot of scrolling. Easy to read and wasn’t trying to overwhelm the.

**Best Online Static Ad**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Greg Minix

This ad instantly made me feel nostalgic about the holidays. Very much done and seasonally appropriate. Visually impressive. An excellent piece of work!

**Second Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

Clever wordplay and creative use of the whole’s tide too. I liked this ad quite a bit.

**Third Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

A very well constructed ad that really drives home the point of the event.

**Honorable Mention**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

Nice design. Great image. Very effective ad.

**Feature Photo(s)**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
The Dag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Haas

The photographer did a nice job of getting above the scene for a different point of view from the typical event we’ve seen dozens of times. Even the lines from the parking spots and the parked cracks help make the composition, and the flag adds a nice pop of color and depth.

**Second Place**
The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean

A nice collection of scenes from the fair — the variety of candid moments moved this up past a lot of other entries.

**Second Place**
Freeport Herald Leader, Freeport
Christina Daly

This photo put the reader a spot few see, and captures a perfect moment where the selected plane is passed by another plane complete with exhaust, with the bridge perfectly placed in the frame. It couldn’t be better.

**Honorable Mention**
Dan Soucy

As stated earlier, there was tough competition for third place, but this shot earned honorable mention for its quirky shift of scale and low angle.

**Division 2**

**First Place**
The Village Beacon-Record, Miller Place
Kevin Redding

There was tight competition for third place, but the emotion on the faces of the people in this photo put it a step above the rest.

**Honorable Mention**
Dan Soucy

As stated earlier, there was tough competition for third place, but this shot earned honorable mention for its quirky shift of scale and low angle.

**Division 3**

**First Place**
The Daily News, Batavia
Rocco LaCurto

The decision to silhouette the ballerinas against the vibrant purple backgroung was a genius one. It’s eye catching color and contrast of the dancers demands readers attention while also showing the beauty of the dancers. The colors, the smile on the little girls face, from its viewer, you know the photographer has done his job. The colors, the smile on the little girls face, the framing of the eyes, the photographer give this series of images a sense of fun, and a view into what most of us will never experience.

**Second Place**
Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Bill DeLapp and Michael Davis.

The unique photo and perspective used by the photographer give this series of images a sense of fun, and a view into what most of us will never experience.

**Third Place**
Norfolk News, Bronx
Adi Talwar

Whenever an image elicits an emotional response from its viewer, you know the photographer has done his job. The colors, the smile on the little girls face, the framing of the eyes, the photographer give this series of images a sense of fun, and a view into what most of us will never experience.

**Honorable Mention**
The Freeman’s Journal, Cooperstown
Ian Austin

This image makes one smile. The expressions of the graduates as they turn down a priceless and this image is one they, and their families, will treasure.
When 17-year-old Alyssa Gelfand died this spring after a crash on Hurst Road, editor Saranac Hale Spencer was immediately reminded of two teen deaths the Altamont Enterprise had covered on the same stretch of rural road 17 years before. Reporter Elizabeth Floyd Mair pursued this angle, talking to residents on the road and others who shared stories from even earlier generations being attracted to the road for the thrill of “getting air” by speeding over its undulating surface.

The front-page story that week, detailing the crash, included pictures of the memorial that still stood from the long-ago crash, as well as photographs showing the community’s outpouring of grief over the recent death.

An editorial the next week, by Melissa Hale-Spencer, urged that something useful be done with that grief. The editorial took pains to explain the functioning of an adolescent brain and its tendency for risk-taking, poignantly illustrated by Carol Coogan. But the editorial went on to offer a practical solution — level the road.

While the town supervisor said, “It’s a properly designed road for the posted speed. You could make the argument that no town roads are made for going 90 miles per hour or more,” The Enterprise got the highway superintendent on the record, saying he would level the road. We wrote we believed he was a man of his word and we would hold him to it.

We did and he was. Floyd Mair reported in October that the road was leveled, being regraded to a gentle slope. Dmitry Gelfand, the father of Alyssa Gelfand, who had been killed in the spring, told Floyd Mair, “It’s a wonderful, wonderful thing that the town is doing. Any effort that the town makes with regard to this situation and this road that may potentially save one life would be monumental.”

**Sharon R. Fulmer Award for Community Leadership, 2017**

**FIRST PLACE — THE ALTAMONT ENTERPRISE AND ALBANY COUNTY POST**

*The Altamont Enterprise* has an admirable record of powerful, persuasive community leadership. The newspaper has won 9 awards in this category, and this is the third time the paper has been awarded first place.

“The power — and the importance — of community journalism rang true in this entry. Getting a result that will save lives is a wonderful accomplishment for a newspaper.”

Sharon R. Fulmer was co-editor of *The Review* (Liverpool, NY). She served as president of the NYPA board of directors in 1994. In recognition of the countless hours that Sharon devoted to community service, this award was established in her honor in 2008.

The award is presented with a stipend for the winner to donate to the community service project of his/her choice.
SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S) 

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
The Walton Reporter, Walton
Benjamin Patton
This was a tough category to judge, but there was a lot of really nice work. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong emotion and a definite sense of the moment captured.

SECOND PLACE
The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean
Great emotion, great moment, great image. This image tells the whole story.

THIRD PLACE
The Daily News, Hempstead
John Heftman
Great moment between these two players. Nice image tells the story of the game.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Robert O’Rourk
Photographer captured a great moment of peak action. This image quickly rose to the top.

SECOND PLACE
Star Review, Liverpool
Scott Thomas
A nice tight crop really helped make this image of a swarm of defenders tackling the player. Kudos for identifying all the players making the play.

THIRD PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Daniel De Mato
Great image of a player. Kudos for identifying all the players making the play.

HONORABLE MENTION
The News-Review, Riverhead
Robert O’Rourk
Nice image. A nice different composition to show how dominant this runner is without the standard finish line shot.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE
Queens Ledger, Queens
Jeffrey Armstrong
The drama of this moment, the clear view of a player with the ball, makes this the clear top of the list.

SECOND PLACE
The Independent, East Hampton
Gordon M. Grant
Being in the right place at a key moment with a camera is not easy. This photographer did a great job capturing a unique perspective.

THIRD PLACE
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Kayla Breen
Really tight competition in the Sports Action category made choosing third place very tough. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong emotion and a definite sense of the moment captured.

HONORABLE MENTION
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Terry Ryan
The angle and leading lines of this image create a unique perspective. The image nicely summed up a lot of really nice work. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong emotion and a definite sense of the moment captured.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO(S) 

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
The Riverfronts Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson
Jim MacLean
This image shows great emotion. Photographer did a nice job of getting in front of the action. Nice job.

SECOND PLACE
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Almonteen Press
Beautiful composition, is no small feat and a great image.

HONORABLE MENTION
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Joni Epperson
This image speaks to the essence of the game. The image nicely summed up a lot of really nice work. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong emotion and a definite sense of the moment captured.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The Village Times Herald, Smithtown
Joseph Scherber
Great use of photos and graphics with the story. A fun image, great job by this photographer to bring a smile to the readers.

SECOND PLACE
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Amanda Morrison
Great moment. Photographer went beyond the obvious to capture a unique perspective.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Smithtown News, Smithtown
Joseph Scherber
This image shows great emotion, the perfect moment caught on film. Nice job.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE
Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Lena Reuter
What an amazing capture! To get this moment, with such amazing sharpness and beauty is not a small feat and a great job.

SECOND PLACE
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Barry R. Pons
The fireworks photo is lovely.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Smithtown News, Smithtown
Joseph Scherber

PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
The Daily News, Watertown
Michael Heller
This image shows great emotion, the perfect moment caught on film. Nice job.

SECOND PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Kelly Zegers
Nailed it.

HONORABLE MENTION
Putnam County Courrier, Carmel
Eric Gygys
Wow, you don’t often get to see this.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The Rockaway Times, Rockaway Park
Ron McE выпуск
Lovely image.

SECOND PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
John Heftman
Great image.

HONORABLE MENTION
Rockville Centre Herald, Rockville Centre
Rosaline Wetteland, Scott Bruntin and Christina Daly
Great composition.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE
The Daily News, Batavia
Mark Gunman
I think the photographer went beyond the assignment of photographing a graduation and looked for a different way to tell the story. Very nice image and it says a lot about the generation of today. A fun image, great job by this photographer to bring the story to the readers.

SECOND PLACE
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Justin Sorensen
This image shows great emotion, the perfect moment caught on film. Nice job.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Independent, East Hampton
Ed Gifford
This image shows great emotion, the perfect moment caught on film. Nice job.

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristin Wallace
Great use of photos and graphics with the story.

SECOND PLACE
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Chris Lester, Gavin Menu
Love the top graphic. Really grabbed the reader’s attention and the point of the article.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Independent, East Hampton
Justin Menken

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Kelly Zegers
Nailed it.

SECOND PLACE
Putnam County Courrier, Carmel
Eric Gygys
Wow, you don’t often get to see this.

HONORABLE MENTION
Putnam County News & Record, Cold Spring
Douglas Cunningham

DIVISION 3

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Putnam County Courrier, Carmel
Eric Gygys
Wow, you don’t often get to see this.

HONORABLE MENTION
Putnam County News & Record, Cold Spring
Douglas Cunningham

SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller
Nice using the color, great topic.

SECOND PLACE
Putnam County Courrier, Carmel
Eric Gygys
Wow, you don’t often get to see this.

HONORABLE MENTION
Putnam County News & Record, Cold Spring
Douglas Cunningham

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
The Rockaway Times, Rockaway Park
Ron McE выпуск
Lovely image.

SECOND PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
John Heftman
Great image.

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HONORABLE MENTION
Putnam County News & Record, Cold Spring
Douglas Cunningham
First Place — Division 1
ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

Congratulations to Melissa Mangini and Kristina Walser — the judges said:
“This paper has a very modern overall design. It has great graphics and photography throughout. It keeps you interested and wanting to read more. I really liked the 40 under 40 special section.”

First Place — Division 2
THE RIVERDALE PRESS

How appropriate that the award named for the former publisher of this newspaper should take home this award. Hats off to Michael Hinman, Richard Stein, Mekea Fishlin. The judges said, “This paper has a very modern masthead that leads you into a well laid out paper. The paper has good typography throughout and I especially enjoyed the design and concept of the Mom and Pop Stores.”

Richard L. Stein Award for Overall Design Excellence, 2017

Richard L. Stein is the former publisher of The Riverdale Press. He served as president of the New York Press Association board of directors in 1988. Acknowledging the countless hours Richard has spent sharing his award-winning design talents with journalism students and newspaper graphic designers, the NYPA board established this award in his honor in 2008.
Best Large Space Ad, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
CHRIS LAYTON
PUTNAM COUNTY NEWS & RECORDER

“Very clean and sophisticated. Definitely creates an image.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
ERIC HOD, THE SUFFOLK TIMES

“I ranked this ad as first place because it caught my eye right away. Not only is it pleasant to look at but it is also very informative. All of the main facts and information are bold and stand out very well. If you don’t want to read all of the information then you do not have to because the few bold words and pictures allow you to connect the dots and understand what is being portrayed without reading all of the fine print.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3
LORRAINE MILANO
QUEENS TRIBUNE

“Very nice layout and use of space and color. Very eye catching.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4
MARY E. THORPE
FINGER LAKES TIMES

“Great use of art. Colorful with lots going on.”
**Best Real Estate / Home Section**

**First Place**
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

gorgeously in its presentation, from choice of editor/design content, ad design and layout, it offers such a variety of topics that the reader has no choice but to engage. The perfect pacing of words and visuals to make the content leap off the page.

**Second Place**
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

This was so stylistically smart in the use of large, crop photography paired with clean layout, smart typography and a healthy use of white space. You truly feel as if you’re taking a tour of these homes and neighborhoods and meeting the interesting people who reside in them.

**Third Place**

A comprehensive look at real estate industry news and how it affects area residents. The large photos, dates and charts help the reader relate to and understand what is going on in a market in which wouldn’t otherwise be accessible. Great job.

**Honorable Mention**
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor


**Best Automotive Special Section or Magazine**

**First Place**
The Daily News, Batavia

Tiffany Tournier

This was excellent in choosing content that was the most relevant and usable by the intended audience.

**Second Place**
Long Island Weekly

Alex Nunez

Sharp and smart in its content selection. Great layout and reproduction.

**Third Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton

A little type-heavy in the presentation, however, the originality of the content and continuity of typography.

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION**

**First Place**
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton

Just beautiful in its presentation. Such a smart variety of content paired with publication design that it feels informative, fun and playful. Great job.

**Second Place**
Gay City News, New York

Paul Schindler and Michael Shively

A great, comprehensive look at Pride and every conceivable issue pertaining to it is included in this publication. Great job presenting everything the reader could conceivably want.

**Third Place**
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

A beautifully designed publication with stylish content. Great use of photography and graphics.

**Best Special Section - Advertising**

**First Place**
The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

Kathy Potter

Although not necessarily a new idea, this local business special section was presented in a fresh and eye-catching manner. The front cover was a home run and invited the reader to turn the page. The layout was clean, organized and easy to read and the format of a photo with editorial for each profile was well-balanced. From the number of participants in the contest, it was apparent the section was well received by the business community and was definitely an interesting read throughout.

**Second Place**
Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs

Chris Buehke and Samantha Nuck

The all-encompassing community guide for the Saratoga Region was an ambitious undertaking. The 148 pages of information covering everything from A to Z were very well organized and avoided the pitfalls of being overwhelming. Beautiful photos helped to balance the editorial and the print quality of the publication was top-notch. The annual guide appears to be a very useful tool for residents and visitors.

**Third Place**
S Union County Democrat, Callicoon

A unique and clever section targeting the “non-traditional readers of newspapers” millennials! We appreciated the outside-the-box approach of focusing on 12 “up and coming” young professionals in the community as well as the positive feedback the section received in both print and online. The print quality and layout of the section were also very good but it was the fresh concept that we really liked.

**Best Advertising Campaign**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saratoga Springs

Carol Swierzy

Very creative jewelry campaign, even in black and white.

**Second Place**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Eric Hod and Charlie Tuminio

Beautiful photos and a clean layout. The are very professional looking.

**Third Place**
Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring

Chris Layton

Ads are clean and sophisticated. Definitely creates an image.

**Honorable Mention**
Skaneatles Press, Skaneatles

Sean Haney

The ads areFer and clean. Not your typical store ad.

**Division 2**

**First Place**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Eric Hod

I ranked this ad in first place because it caught my eye right away. Not only is it pleasant to look at but it also very informative. The bright colors and pictures are eye catching. Once you start reading the ad then it gives you all the basic information you need to decide if it’d like to go somewhere without being too wordy. It has all the necessary visual appeal and wording without being too much.

**Second Place**
Syracuse New Times, Syracuse

Greg Minta

I ranked this group of ads as second place because the ads are informational and apply to peoples lives. This ad is a very good ad with a witty one liner, then there is a picture that may be relevant to some people but not to others and there’s a also a fact.

**Third Place**
North Country This Week, Potsdam

Cathy Whalen

I ranked this group of ads as third place because I like the layout of it all. The background picture is very creative and I like how it was able to put behind the cars without bringing distracting or in the way. Also the car advertising is very to the point and it gives all the necessary information when people are looking at the only thing that the ads should also have is prices.

**Best Large Space Ad**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring

Chris Layton

Very clean and sophisticated. Definitely creates an image.

**Second Place**
Albany Business Review, Albany

Kristina Wafer

Great use of sponsored content.

**Third Place**
Albany Business Review, Albany

Kristina Wafer

Colorful and informative. Nice use of photos.

**Honorable Mention**
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Beautiful ad done in black and white.

**Division 2**

**First Place**
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Eric Hod

I ranked this ad in first place because it caught my eye right away. Not only is it pleasant to look at but it is also very informative. All of the main facts and information are bold and stand out very well. If you don’t want to read all of the information then you do not have to because the few bold words and pictures allow you to connect the dots and understand what is being portrayed without reading all of the fine print.

**Second Place**
The Village Voice, Herald, Setauket

Sharon Nicholson

I ranked this ad in second place because it is very clear who the target is. It is that same people time if they are not a homeowner then they can skip over the ad and disregard it because it doesn’t affect them. It is also nice for homeowners because it grabs their attention. Once the ad has their attention of the information is very to the point. The information is just the basics but that is also important to that fact that it makes them contact the business for more. The overall layout is also appropriate.

**Third Place**
The Garden City News, Garden City

I ranked this ad in third place because everything comes together very well. The pictures and really catches your eye well. It is quickly and appealing if you are looking to go to a party. In addition to that, the picture size is the way at all and the use of spacing was very well thought out. The ad also has all of the important information that will draw people in without being too wordy.
FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
KRISTINA WALSER, ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

“Great use of photos and graphs with the story. Eye catching. Nice job.”
Excellent Awards

Best Large Space Ad
Division 3
First Place
Queens Tribune, Queens
Lorraine Milano
Very nice layout and use of space and color. Very eye catching.

Second Place
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Very well laid out and very clear. Not too much information.

Third Place
Queens Tribune, Queens
Lorraine Milano
Great layout and use of color. Like the overlay of the photos.

Honorable Mention
New Hyde Park Illustrated News, New Hyde Park
Carol Donatelli
A lot of information in one ad, but very easy to read.

Best Large Space Ad
Division 4
First Place
Finger Lakes Times, Geneva
Mary E. Thorpe
Great use of art. Colorful with lots going on.

Second Place
Register-Star, Hudson
Erica Fier
Great use of photos. Colorful and attention getting.

Third Place
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Stacey Fryinger
Attractive, clean ad for an auto dealer.

Best Small Space Ad
Division 1
First Place
Williston Times, Williston Park
Great imagery, placement, easy to read.

Second Place
Livingston County News, Genesee
Michelle Dries
Nice use of different font styles and backgrounds, appropriate and fun image.

Third Place
Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring
Virginia Califano
Stunning display of gummed adornments. Strong image use.

Honorable Mention
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Kate Vikstrom
Great image and color.

Division 2
First Place
The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Wendy Mercier
Love the vertical ad. Great use of bleached photo with overlayed text.

Second Place
Wantagh Herald Citizen, Wantagh
Mona Watrman
Clean, clean, all American ad.

Third Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Charlie Tuminio
Great play on a service offered with photo and headline.

Honorable Mention
Bellmore Herald Life, Bellmore
Gabriela Sobell

Best Multi-Advertiser Pages
Division 1
First Place
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Love the clean look and easy to read design.

Second Place
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Kate Vikstrom and Michele Gedney
Great layout, makes me want to go to camp!

Third Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Karen Cullen
Very attractive! Love the idea.

Honorable Mention
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Excellent design.

Division 2
First Place
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Attractive Page.

Second Place
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Kianna Grumix
Straight to the point not crowded. Clean and concise language.

Third Place
Olean Times Herald, Olean
Matt Keim
Missing a phone number.

Honorable Mention
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Todd Soules

Best House Ad / AD Campaign
Division 1
First Place
Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walker
Straight to the point and not over loaded with information.

Second Place
Williston Times, Williston Park
Yvonne Farley
Great use of space and nice color layout.

Third Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Purpan and Michael Vee
Nice layout and perfectly suited to the section.

Honorable Mention
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Nice use of color and not too busy.

Division 2
First Place
Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Clever, clear and funny.

Second Place
Fort Washington News, Fort Washington
Alex Nuhe!
This ad will resonate with the public. Nice soft color.

Third Place
Glen Cove Herald Gazette, Glen Cove
Very clear and to the point.

Honorable Mention
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Great use of space and like the color.

Division 3
First Place
Register-Star, Hudson
Erica Fier
Colorful, clean looking ad, call to action is a great statement.

Second Place
The Citizen, Auburn
Marcie Barber
Powerful ad for reader.

Third Place
The Daily News, Batavia
Kim Diemoz
All the ads are clean, clear and great color, no issue with the font.

Honorable Mention
The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Innovative Ad Project
First Place
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Unique idea, loved the layout and was very successful in sales.

Second Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Sonja Reinholdt and Tina Contemto
Very creative idea and great revenue maker.

Third Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Purpan, Kryssy Massa, Michelina da Fonte and Sonja Reinholdt
Nice idea to get the advertisers back. Good content.

Classified Advertising
First Place
The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Clean precise, well spaced, allows a reader to really review the materials.

Second Place
Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Karen Cullen
Clean well spaced no crowding of the information.

Third Place
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Clever way of presenting home services and products.

Honorable Mention
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Karen Cullen
Clean and well spaced between the ads with a touch of color.

Blooper of the Year
First Place
The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Goes to show you how just one letter can change an entire image in your mind.
Best Art Photo, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
LOU REUTER, ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE

“What an amazing capture! To get this moment, with such amazing sharpness and beautiful compositions, is no small feat and no doubt took patience and skill.

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
CHRISTIAN K. LEE, WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

“The unique perspective and angle of this image made it stand out from many qualified entries. This composition and exposure brings what could be an average image and elevates it to an outstanding one.”
2017 Newspaper of the Year
The Suffolk Times

Accumulating 305 contest points (70 points more than their closest competitor) the staff of The Suffolk Times, led by publisher Andrew Olsen, takes home 2017 Newspaper of the Year honors. The newspaper earned nine first place awards including the Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting, Coverage of Health, Healthcare and Science; Coverage of Crime, Police and Courts; Best Feature Story, Editorials, Best Use of Video, Best Online Dynamic, Magazine, and Best Large Space Ad.

The judges said, “I was hoping that the #1 choice would jump out and grab me, but it didn’t happen until final entry of the contest was opened — the Suffolk Times story about the disappearance of Louise Pietrewicz. Not only is this the most compelling entry submitted, it also shows the best design work, and design can play a big part in drawing in a reader. The Times staff created an excellent report.

It’s a job very well done… None of the stories were run of the mill. All were well-written and informative. Great team work on the Gone package. I’m sure it took a lot of time and legwork to compile that story which was fascinating… These editorials went to great lengths to hold elected officials accountable and encourage dialogue in the community. All were very timely… Creative use of design to deliver a quality ad… What we liked most about this 108-page, self-cover, perfect-bound magazine — besides its beautiful layout and photography and quality content and writing — was that it was local, local, local from beginning to end.

Even though the September 2017 was only the FOURTH edition of the Northforker, it is very well done and will find a space on many Northforkers’ coffee tables. The advertising, of which there was abundance — enough to warm any publisher’s heart, was all classy and nicely done… not a starnburst to be found.

2017 Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence
The Sag Harbor Express

The staff at The Sag Harbor Express earned 190 points in the editorial contest, led by co-publisher and Sports Writer of the Year, Gavin Menu, and Photographer of the Year, Michael Heller. The Express won first place for Photographic Excellence, Best Web Site, Coverage of Religion, Spot News Coverage, Picture Story, and Spot News Photos. The judges said, “If these two issues are representative of the rest of the year, the paper seems truly invested in religious news, with multiple stories per issue just from day-to-day beat coverage. The most comprehensive coverage of any entry… This entry was the clear winner in terms of extensive coverage. The staff did a nice job of varying the content by including the Q&A with a congressman and the “What brought you to march…” feature with photos of local participants.

2017 John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence
Dan’s Papers

Dan’s Papers earned 90 points in the advertising contest, including first and second place awards for Best Small Space Ad, first place for Best Multi-Advertiser Pages, and first place for Innovative Ad Project. The judges said, “Love this ad… ad works clearly with their branding… love the clean look and easy-to-read design… unique idea, love the layout, very successful in sales.”
**Tarmac**

Tarmac, from Chaminade High School in Mineola, repeats as Best High School Newspaper in New York State. The newspaper staff earned 113 contest points, including first place awards for General Excellence, Feature Story, Best Web Site and Best Use of Social Media. The judges said, “Great front-page story… Good 5 question feature Center spread is a treat for readers and a creative layout opportunity. Overall, great writing — crisp and engaging. Photos are also appropriate for the stories and lots of faces… Consistent, magazine-style layout. Your readers know what to expect. You soar with your inside spread — and make good use of design elements — type, art and photos. Visually appealing. Your cover stories are well written.”

**General Excellence**

**First Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

Great front page story. Good layout feature. Center spread is a treat for readers and a creative layout opportunity. Overall, great writing — crisp and engaging. Photos are also appropriate for the stories and lots of faces.

**Second Place**
Spectator, Fredonia Central High School

Great front page photos — race course on the feature story — easy to read. Photos overall are nicely done, a lot of good people photos. Original art is a plus as well. It is good when you do some of that community news coverage as well. Some nice design, really easy to read, the text looks like you have fun and are engaged in your work and that makes it easier to read.

**Third Place**
Hooftbeats, Sanford Calhoun High School

Love the big, clear, crisp photos of people throughout. They are really well taken. A lot of opinion… perhaps more feature? There seem to be a lot going on at your school and you cover a lot of it. Keep up. That’s in the editorial idea. Cute “culture” label too. There is news here, well told, and there’s a lot about it.

**Honorable Mention**
Brocton Review, Brocton Central School

Why sports on every cover? Nice crisp photos overall — lots of faces. In your market, this type of coverage is information, often published, where available, etc. There is a difference between consistency and repetition — i.e. pull quotes. Good writing throughout.

**Feature Story**

**First Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

Story about a student, Emily Van Sciver, who only participated in two meets; she’s a compelling and relatable story. It’s long, but it doesn’t feel long. It has an interesting, getting-a-hold narrative style and a good amount of quotes.

**Second Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

Nicolas Princi

Nicolas Princi tells a remarkable story by telling the story of a couple of kids across America. His perspective description of the trip with quotes from both participants in a tale that is compelling and readable. It’s long, but it doesn’t feel long. It has an interesting, getting-a-hold narrative style and a good amount of quotes.

**Third Place**
Spectator, Fredonia Central High School

Kevin Sinacaca

This is a high-quality news story about a high school musical. The story comes to life when you hear from the different cast members and how they feel to have a part in the production. You can feel the passion from the different cast members and how they feel.

**Honorable Mention**
Focus, Blind Brook High School

Mike Filipcik

This is an admirable effort to tackle a difficult story. The content is solid, but the writing is a little rough.

**Design**

**First Place**
Spectator, Fredonia Central High School

Love the four covers — A magazine-style, but you choose the best, most interesting photos of students. How often do you publish? Put it in your masthead. Nice inside pages, clean look, you stand out on your own terms to make design and successful function. A lot of news in these pages with photos to match and engaging. The design is inviting, not overly fancy, throughout. It kept me turning “the pages. Overall, a pleasure, visual read. Take some more risks now and then you have this done. Are you related in some way to Brocton? Similar styles, but you came out ahead on various points.

**Second Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

Consistent, magazine-style layout. Your readers know what to expect. Your cover story has inside spread — and make good use of design elements — type, art and photos. Visually appealing. Your cover stories are well written and appropriate for your publication… (Where are the women?… just kidding!) (It took me a moment.)... Put your deeper news in your masthead but your better photos in your sidebars. Don’t make that mistake when you cover a school news feature story. Work. Your writing overall is engaging, seemingly accurate and well sourced.

**Third Place**
Hooftbeats

Clean, consistent. Like the big photos — they are accurate as well as eye-catching. Are you a monthly? Include this in your masthead… how often you publish. While I get this is an under your school voices — I think there are too many editors. Only two sports pages! More community news! One design flaw that stood out — theatre photos on a sports page. Otherwise, design makes sense throughout the edition. Good huge photos. More sports photos — journalistic than posed. Like the “Bulldog” photos — engaging.

**Honorable Mention**
Brocton Review, Brocton Central School

Consistent, clean layout — a more magazine-style. The photos are crisp, but mostly posed, not photojournalism. On your home page, the gym photos are very good, maybe a little too much action, clean, crisp. Love your community coverage in the Christmas Edition. Way to go. It is school and community writing overall is great.

**Photography**

**First Place**
Spectator, Fredonia Central High School

Kevin Sinacaca

This has all the elements of a winning photo: composition, emotion, focus and technical quality. Photojournalist Kevlyn Women uses depth of field to place the viewer on two different planes, while using the rule of thirds to lead your eye to the main subject. The photo designer carefully placed the headline so it didn’t distract, creating a dynamic magazine cover.

**Second Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

The thrill of competition is deftly dramatized in this photo of three hurdles. The expressions on each face is clear, making it compelling. The composition is solid with the faces spread across the upper third. Viewers feel as if they are in the race.

**Third Place**
Spectator, Brocton Review, Brocton Central School

Molly Kucharski

Sports photography is all about capturing the moment, as well as evoking emotion. This well composed image of a baseball pitcher just getting the bat on both the moment of the release and the emotion on the pitcher’s face.

**Honorable Mention**
Spectator, Fredonia Central High School

Patrick Youngmiller

This is one of several excellent portraits. If I had to vote in a special photography category in a contest or category, this would be a winner.

**Best Sports Story**

**First Place**
Brocton Review, Brocton Central School

Tim O’Dell

Reporters Tim O’Dell blends an overview story on a professional basketball team that is using the high school gym’s floor as a canvas in a highlights for the high school team. The story often appears several weeks after high school students, members of the professional team, and coaches — then as a professional column and the student athletes’ unique perspective with professionals.

**Second Place**
Spectator, Fredonia Central High School

Sydney Stun

A winning coach is only a great story if the reporter dug deeper than the quick clichés. Sydney Stun offers some of those cliches, but also provides a broader view of the winning team and their coaches. Along with the coach, a variety of students are quoted, offering different perspectives. The result is a well-rounded look at a coach that has been important to the school.

**Third Place**
Hooftbeats, Sanford Calhoun High School

Sofia Liguori and Carly Rogers

Sometimes you use the best quote right after the lead. Instead, you use the story to segue into the quote. Both Sofia Liguori and Carly Rogers chose to end their feature story on a girl kicker playing on the boy’s football team with a wonderful quote. “All I can do is thank them for allowing me to be the sister to the brotherhood.” They made other smart choices throughout, weaving together a solid story on a girl being accepted by the boys.

**Honorable Mention**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

Chris Mancarella

It’s hard to pull off writing a news story first person. Chris Mancarella does an excellent job; it does, and the story turned out to be a good one. Keep it up. You certainly on the right track and are doing a good job with writing about a game he played in.

**Best Web Site**

**First Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

Nicole Finno

Nicely done site — and still keeping up with your print product — great. You make good use of the features of digital — links, video, and promoting and using other social media platforms such as Twitter. Love your use of quotes and good use of tabs. Your website is a “who’s who” of news and feature stories. Remember to use links — you can attract to local apples, weather, etc.

**Best Use of Social Media**

**First Place**
Tarmac, Chaminade High School

This has a lot of features — a social media page, a Facebook page, a Twitter page, and a YouTube channel. There is a lot of information available on your social media channels. Keep it up. You use your social media and are an example of how to use them well.
2017 Best College Newspaper

The Ithacan

We don’t know what to call a team that wins the same award 16 times, so we’ll just call it the Best College Newspaper. The Ithacan earned 185 points in the college contest, winning first place awards for General Excellence, Feature Story, Column, Photography, Best Sports Coverage, Editorial, and Best Use of Social Media.

The judges said, “Good writing, solid design that follows basic principles, great photography.”

There is a lot to love in the Ithacan and it is done at a very high level. Wonderful work Ithacan staff… Vinica did a great job telling a difficult story. I appreciated that she set it up when happened to Brandon in the first few graphs then “chunked” the rest of it with each section having a beginning, middle and end. The section that takes us back to Brandon receiving the news about his father is harrowing. Very effective writing that helps pull you in. This is one of the best pieces in the entire contest… By far the most personal column of the bunch. Mahad is honest and shows his vulnerability to his readers as describes his crisis of faith and the loss of his family connection. In the end he tells us he finally feels like he has found a place to belong. His description of that harrowing journey to get there — and the economy of words he uses to tell that story — earned him this award. Thank you for telling your story… This is a well-written, beautifully composed shot. Cropped perfectly. The strongest of the group. Beautiful work…”

General Excellence

First Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
The most complete entry by far. Good writing, solid design that follows basic principles, great photography. There is a lot to love in this newspaper and it is done at a very high level. Wonderful work!

Second Place
Albany Student Press, Albany
Overall, this is a fine publication. You offer readers a variety of content, but you need some fine-tuning in many areas. When you address these deficits your publication will be even more impressive. You have some significant issues with design. After the very attractive front page, the design starts to fall apart because you do not follow basic design principles. Many photos don’t have cutlines. You still have a lot to work with in your headlines. This is the category. You could take solid headlines. If you work to improve your design and creating a style for your publication.

Third Place
The Hill News, St. Lawrence University
Daniel Banta
The Oct. 6 front page was strong, I was expecting a lot more of those design and photography moments and was disappointed that I didn’t find them. Overall, your content is strong — work on improving headlines, design and creating copy for your publication.

Honorable Mention
The Owegoian, SUNY Oswego
Good content. Well-written, solid headlines. If you work to improve your design and photography you could take this category.

Feature Story

First Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Vinica Weiss
The writer did a great job telling a difficult story. I appreciated that she set it up when happened to Brandon in the first few graphs then “chunked” the rest of it with each section having a beginning, middle and end. The section that takes us back to Brandon receiving the news about his father is harrowing. Very effective writing that helps pull you in. This is one of the best pieces in the entire contest!

Second Place
The Impact, Mercy College
Lie Meier
Wonderful, personal writing. Amy dad would have to have a daughter push about him in the student newspaper, and this could have come off as written a bit personal. Instead, she shared readers how her father impacted her life. I’m also sure dad would be proud of the intelligent, fierce defense of women’s reproductive rights also included here.

Honorable Mention
The Pioneer, St. John Fisher College
Giullian Pietrovits
I liked the tone. The writer is developing an effective voice for a columnist. Try to get the points, or theme, of each column a little quicker.

Third Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Kalia Koronye and Celissa Cakalad
A well-written look at a complex and interesting cultural issue. The writers do a fine job providing a historic perspective and making it relevant to today’s students too. This was a fun read that also taught me things I didn’t already know!

Honorable Mention
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Samantha Catelli
This is a well-written, fun story. The writers did a wonderful job conveying Anthony’s personality in the piece. This easily could have turned out so silly, instead she makes readers want to sign up and join the cheer team.

Column

First Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Mahad Olad
For the most personal column of the bunch. The writer is honest and shows his vulnerability to his readers as he describes his crisis of faith and the loss of his family connection. In the end he tells us he finally feels like he has found a place to belong. His description of that harrowing journey to get there — and the economy of words he uses to tell that story — earned him this award.

Second Place
The Impact, Mercy College
Kayla Simas
Really wonderful, personal writing. She picked deeply personal topics and shared her with readers. These almost seem more appropriate for a literary journal, because the length of the piece was a problem for me. Sometimes less is more. Write tighter and keep up the excellent storytelling.

Third Place
The Impact, Mercy College
Liz Meier
Wonderful, personal writing. Amy dad would have to have a daughter push about him in the student newspaper, and this could have come off as written too personal. Instead, she showed readers how her father impacted her life. I’m also sure dad would be proud of the intelligent, fierce defense of women’s reproductive rights also included here.

Honorable Mention
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A well-written look at a complex and interesting cultural issue. The writers do a fine job providing a historic perspective and making it relevant to today’s students too. This was a fun read that also taught me things I didn’t already know!

Design

First Place
Report, Magazine, Rochester Institute of Technology
In some ways, it has an unfair advantage over the competition in that it is a magazine and is published monthly. Its well-designed, graphic-heavy magazine look pretty much blew everything else in this category away. You take big chances with your style, particularly the cover, and most of them pay off. Your illustrations are fantastic, and if they worked for me I’d showcase them as much as you do too. However, I encourage you to show your photographers some more love — they could have played a larger role here and taken you to the next level. Keep up the excellent work!

Second Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Harley Tarleton and Nicole Peter
Of the traditional “newspaper” publications, this is the best looking of the bunch. It features a clean design, smartly-written headlines and more smart, economic visual decisions. The Jan. 20 spread is a game of beauty! Some of your best photos tend to be posed, otherwise they are a bit boring. How about working with your photographers to bring out a bit more emotion you can exploit through design? Also, unless you have an exceptionally good cartoonist, sometimes it’s better to NOT have cartoons!

Third Place
Fordham Observer, Fordham University
Great design will draw in readers. This is a very traditional design. I would love to see you take some chances and clean up some of the problems. You are not following basic rules for headlines (using double quotes in italics) and photos (they should have frames).

Honorable Mention
The Hill News, St. Lawrence University
Daniel Banta
The cover of the Oct. 6 edition is gorgeous. That is the best design moment in your submission — after that it’s a lot of grey space. Show your inside pages some more love!

Photography

First Place
Cardinal Points, Plattsburgh
Rebecca Natale
An excellent example of the power of detail-rich, public record reporting. Great job sitting through 30 pages of witness testimony and interviews to thoroughly convey the cruelty inflicted upon students by members of Phi Alpha Nu. Well done!

Second Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Kaya Dwyer
Kaya does a fine job exploring the challenges low-income students face at her university. As a reader I appreciated all of the personal storytelling moments from the sources like when Mohamed is asked by his mother if he is alright after moving in. The glossary of terms was a nice touch. The graphics also help bring the issue into focus. It would have benefited from more extensive editing — it was too long.

Third Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Grace Elletton and Meghan McElroy
A well-written account of contract talks that almost gives readers the sense of what it was like to be in the room. The writers did an excellent job covering the details of what the contract provides for faculty while giving us a sense of the urgency faced by all involved. This was fun to read.

Honorable Mention
Mercy College
Alana Smith
Really wonderful, personal writing. She picked deeply personal topics and shared her with readers. These almost seem more appropriate for a literary journal, because the length of the piece was a problem for me. Sometimes less is more. Write tighter and keep up the excellent storytelling.

First Prize
The Impact, Mercy College
Liz Meier
Wonderful, personal writing. Amy dad would have to have a daughter push about him in the student newspaper, and this could have come off as written too personal. Instead, she showed readers how her father impacted her life. I’m also sure dad would be proud of the intelligent, fierce defense of women’s reproductive rights also included here.

Honorable Mention
The Pioneer, St. John Fisher College
Gillian Pietrovits
I liked the tone. The writer is developing an effective voice for a columnist. Try to get the points, or theme, of each column a little quicker.

Third Place
The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Conner Lange
This is a nice image that could be improved with a much tighter crop.
BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE
Fordham Observer

SECOND PLACE
The Ithacan, Ithaca College

THIRD PLACE
The Oswegonian, SUNY Oswego

EDITORIAL

FIRST PLACE
The Ithacan, Ithaca College

SECOND PLACE
The Impact, Mercy College

THIRD PLACE
The Oswegonian, SUNY Oswego

BEST WEB SITE

FIRST PLACE
Editor's Note

SECOND PLACE
The Ithacan, Ithaca College

THIRD PLACE
Fordham Observer

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

FIRST PLACE
The Ithacan, Ithaca College

SECOND PLACE
The Spartan, SUNY New Paltz

THIRD PLACE
The Ram, Fordham University

Member of the Michigan Press Association judged the contest entries in January — no small task — there were 2,783 entries. Their thoughtful, detailed comments reflect their professional experience in our industry. We are grateful for their time and commitment to this project, which means so much to NYP A member newspapers.

NYP A staffers Jill Van Dusen and Rich Hotaling spend hours processing entries, working with judges, verifying the winners, creating plaques, certificates, award scripts, and creating this contest newspaper.

Thank you for your meticulous attention to detail and your good humor. You make the work fun.

NYP A's adopted staff member, Rick Fensterer, has for decades, been the wizard behind the curtain, taking over the back end of the contest. Rick is an expert in the technical aspects of the contest, and he has always been willing to help us with any issues that arise.

Thank you for your patience and your willingness to go the extra mile to make sure the contest runs smoothly.

And to our good friends at Trumbull Printing — thank you for helping us to showcase our winners by printing this newspaper. The newspaper is a treasure to many — shared with family, friends and colleagues and then tucked away for safe keeping. Thank you for your quality reproduction and your generosity.

Finally, to all of the newspaper staff who entered — we know it is a time consuming job and we’re grateful that you take the time. The contest provides an opportunity to display the powerful, impactful work being done by community newspapers — we are proud of you and we’re grateful for the good work you do every day.

MICHELLE REA
Executive Director
Congrats... to all of our winners!

New York Press Association 2017 Better Newspaper Contest