

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
2020 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

About the 2020 Better Newspaper Contest...

151 newspapers submitted 2,440 entries.

Participating newspapers competed for awards in 64 categories, and for Newspaper of the Year, the Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence and the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence.

473 awards were presented during the NYPA Virtual Spring Conference on April 8th & 9th. The entries were judged by members of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association.

And the Winners Are....

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The Southampton Press—Eastern Edition

STUART C. DORMAN AWARD

Editorial Excellence

The Southampton Press—Eastern Edition

John J. Evans Award

Advertising Excellence

The Post-Standard

2020 WRITER OF THE YEAR

Michelle Trauring

The East Hampton Press

2020 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Hanna Wickes

Warwick Advertiser

2020 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

Bob Liepa

The Suffolk Times

2020 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Erica Miller

The Daily Gazette

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post—First Place

THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING

The Highlands Current— First Place, Division 1

Albany Business Review — First Place, Division 3

The Brooklyn Paper — First Place, Division 4

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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

The Riverdale Press — First Place, Division 2

BEST FRONT PAGE

The News-Review— First Place, Division 1

Albany Business Review— First Place, Division 2

amNewYork Metro— First Place, Division 3

Watertown Daily Times— First Place, Division 4

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Queens Chronicle— First Place

The Spotlight (Delmar) — Second Place

Shelter Island Reporter — Third Place

Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post—Honorable Mention

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition— First Place

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Ithaca Times— First Place, Division 1

Sag Harbor Express— First Place, Division 2

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

Long Beach Herald— First Place

Albany Business Review— Second Place

Ithaca Times— Third Place

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton

Three tremendous, thorough editions. Eye-catching designs on AI go with balanced fronts that hit on key local issues while tying in national news as well. Incredibly robust editorial sections with strong local editorials along with numerous local letters (more than 20 in several editions). Feature sections (Arts & Living) are well designed and clean. Writing throughout is tight, concise. There is a ton of news/features/enterprise in here, but not it's overwhelming due to design and writing.

SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Powerful images on front pages and diverse section fronts make this a top-notch entry. Well-executed feature on five seniors discussing the end of their HS careers, balanced with a good graduation section. Powerful local editorials with plenty of local voices as well present a clear indication of engagement within the community. Very good enterprise on the history of Long Wharf.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

I loved this little newspaper. Each edition was well-designed, well-written and had interesting stories for readers. Nice mix of news that readers need and enterprise. Fascinating story on "Fading Forest" and its implications in the region. Pretty robust editorial section and found a way to get sports in each edition. Also, a strong feature/update on former local HS star who gave up basketball after stellar career in high school.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx

This newspaper showed a strong combination of good writing and reporting on community issues, robust editorial pages, great diversity in voices and attractive, reader-friendly layout. Lead photos on the front page each day were strong - specially the Black Lives Matter protest photo on June 11.

Copy was clean throughout. Front page enterprise -- Kingsbridge on the brink of recovery? (Oct. 22) and "Changing how we look at childbirth (July 23) examined important issues through real people as well as official and expert sources.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

This newspaper was jam-packed with timely COVID-19 stories, local politics, crime news, business and features. The Nov. 12 edition included a major treat -- a 4Second Place anniversary "Triumph" over Tragedy that reviewed major events like Superstorm Sandy, Sept 11, 2001, LIRR's worst crash, the Miracle on the Hudson and more. Layout and photography were clean, and there was an active editorial page with many letters. Special sections appeared in each edition -- Meeting the Crisis, Senior Living and 4Second Place Anniversary. If you live here, you want to read this newspaper.

THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York

This newspaper provided comprehensive coverage of issues and people in the LGBTQ communities. The June 25-July 15 issue impressively covered Pride month activities, some made virtual by COVID-19, as well as political races involving gay candidates, stories about anti-gay figures including Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling and much more. The April 9-22 edition focused on the pandemic and featured a compelling cover story about New Alternatives, which provides services for LGBTQ homeless youth and has grown even more vital in the pandemic. Photography is strong. Layout is clean and consistent, as is the copy. This newspaper knows its audience and is thorough in covering a broad array of issues.

HONORABLE MENTION

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon

Special sections, including the massive graduation keepsake published in the July 3 edition and the Catskill-Delaware magazines published in the Feb. 28 and October 30 editions highlighted these entries. Good COVID-19 coverage in the July and October editions. Sullivan Life sections add to a strong overall sense of place. Front pages did a good job addressing key community issues, from COVID to broadband to Route 17 expansion.

"ROOKIE" REPORTER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick

Hanna Wickes

Very strong command of the English language and transitioning through the writing is seamless.

SECOND PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx

Auréole Ribes

Talented writer with a flair for finding the right angles and presenting the story in a clear and concise manner.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

Katherine Donlevy

Great style, use of words and smooth transitioning makes this writer's stories easy to read through.

HONORABLE MENTION

Glen Cove Herald Gazette, Glen Cove

Jennifer Corr

WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Press,

East Hampton

Michelle Trauring

This writer handled a diverse set of topics beautifully, mixing an investigative approach with rich storytelling and a human touch to produce in-depth news features with high community impact and interest. The writer understands that all great stories, though built on solid foundational facts and data, are about people's experiences - their joys and sorrows, their fears and triumphs.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany

Chelsea Diana

Important stories handled perfectly by a superb reporter/writer. Many reporters tackled diversity in the workplace, the push to reopen businesses amid COVID-19, and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on professional moms. But this writer just handled those topics better than the rest. Each deep-dive report is enhanced by personal stories and human experiences. Great use of reporting-driven graphic elements and alternative story elements.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Robin K. Cooper

A gifted writer turns the business beat during COVID-19 into a visionary analysis of important regional economic drivers with a mix of harsh realism and a bit of optimism. Stories are well researched and delivered with a layered presentation that allows readers to understand the global and local factors at work while being introduced to the leaders in these important regional industries. A true pro at work.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn

Rose Adams

This writer digs deeper on the news of the day to encounter personal stories and explore new angles, turning the narrative on its head at times, and bringing compelling faces and voices to her reporting, deftly illuminating the issues facing the community - from below and from the side, as well as from above.

SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Bob Liepa

Every item was complete, full of details and engaging writing. The shutdowns weaved everyone together well and the story ended with the reader really knowing him. Crenshaw read like there were highlights running in the background and you could see the cornhole player's truck.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

David Russell

Wonderful topics and tributes. Excellent work in delivering details beyond the expected. Ascher piece brings the writer into the late coach's circle in a visible way.

THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

Todd Sliss

Entire spectrum of sports presented in the entry, with some great deeper dives. Nice to see articles on sports such as paddle and ninja warrior. The offseason Miller feature was constructed well and engaging.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton

Cailin Riley

Great variety of topics covered with great depth.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Erica Miller

A very good collection of images which show all the different types of assignments in the life of a photojournalist using emotion and creativity in capturing the moment.

SECOND PLACE

Colonie Spotlight, Colonie

Jim Franco

A strong collection of moments which document the emotions of the subjects.

THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press,
East Hampton

Michael Heller

Just a great grasp of using light and predicting its properties.

BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead

*Lauren Sisson, Joe Werkmeister,
Grant Parpan and Tara Smith*

These are very appealing page designs. The use of images is spot on and the headlines are very well done. There's no way I'm turning the page without reading the stories. Well done!

SECOND PLACE

Suffolk County News, Sayville

*Nicole Fuentes, Linda Leuzzi,
Sam Desmond and Randall Waszynski*

These page designers knew they had great images and they knew how to use them — the emotions are jumping off the pages. I like the use of fonts and white space. It is a very classic look.

THIRD PLACE

Manhasset Press, Manhasset

Cathy Bongiorno

I enjoyed the color schemes on these front pages.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid

Andy Flynn

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany

I really liked the modern design of these front pages. All of them project a fresh, clean look with straight lines and easy on the eye's visuals.

SECOND PLACE

Colonie Spotlight, Colonie

Jim Franco and Michael Hallisey

I love the use of fonts on these front page designs — they are consistent and easy on the eyes. The use of white space really makes the page stand out. The pages look clean, fresh and elegant.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

*Maria Gennaro, Grant Parpan
and Tara Smith*

Each of these pages has a great design — the focus is on the importance of the images and text on the page. They have a very professional, stylish look that is appealing to the eye and draws the reader in to read the interesting stories.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro, New York

Mark Ramos

The front page designs in this entry were by far my favorite in this division — there was just such great use of the art work and creative, compelling headlines.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York

Paul Schindler and Donna Aceto

I really liked the contrast of color both from the photos on these front pages and their headlines.

THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca

Marshall Hopkins

These front pages were very striking with their color schemes and headlines. The one that stood out the most to me was the grand reopening front page — very creative and loved the use of black and white with the red.

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Christina Knott

This was my overall favorite page design in this division — absolutely loved the way the page designer made the most out of the photos, especially the building fire. This was a job well done in a very competitive category.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
The excellent use of such wonderful art work on EVERY page is what made this entry a winner in my opinion. The headlines were outstanding as well. Awesome work!

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
These page designs had the right mix of eye-catching images and interesting news. Although each page had several photos and stories, it did not look too crowded and there was plenty of white space.

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE**FIRST PLACE**

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Very easy on the eyes. Great content and inviting to all readers. Quality work here.

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Michael Hallisey
Good page symmetry and well thought out design. Content features a wide array of topics and presented in an easy to navigate manner.

THIRD PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Ambrose Clancy
Really strong content pushed by the locally produced cartoon. Page design is striking and allows for distinct stories to flow with state and national issues.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Strong honorable mention. The designers have a knack for catching a reader's eye, pulling them into content worthy of reading.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE**FIRST PLACE**

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
The size and amount of images is very impressive. The addition of the grad section just puts the papers over the top.

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
The size of the images put this publication in the top of this category and the blue color is just incredible for newsprint.

THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
The number of photos to go with each story is just fantastic.

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Very well-designed section bolstered by tremendous art. Best art and use of art across the category, by a long way. Every page pops. Clean, consistent design. Even though features seem different, it is clear they all belong in one publication. Part of good design is not over-designing and that stands out here. Clearly, sections are well designed, but nothing overwhelms the section and does not fit. Fun covers, too.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Nearly perfect section fronts. Clean, different, easy to read with dominant art. Good editorial pages; I like the response from editors. Clean inside and feature page designs across all pages. Nice mix of faces and detail shots in art, along with good local sports action shots. Consistent across the board. You can tell from every page you're in the same section.

THIRD PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Best editorial pages in the category and one of the most consistently designed sections. Cool sports photos stand out as well. Very clean, very consistent, a nice-looking section from front to back. Easy to read, which I bet its readers love.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
The sophisticated front page design makes this the best in show for Overall Design Excellence in Division 2, the newspaper has a metro-like look, which certainly must appeal to the audience in the Hamptons. Typography, photos, headline hierarchy and reader-friendly windows to inside coverage add up to an outstanding front. Inside pages, some of which are shared with other newspapers in their group, are also clean and well-designed. The editorial pages are top notch and easy to navigate.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Effective overall front page design is a big part of why this newspaper is among the best in this category. Good photos, well-used; solid headlines, a limited story count that helps make the page look newsy, but not overwhelming and good overall typography all play a role. The June 11 edition featuring coverage of Black Lives Matter protests was especially impressive. The Arts & Living and Business & Finance sections in the editions reviewed also stood out with eye-catching use of photos, good use of white space, limited story count and attractive overall design.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach
This newspaper had well-thought-out front pages. Photos are good, headlines were sharp and tell the story. Inside pages make good use of additional photos and typography.

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE**FIRST PLACE**

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach
This publication does a great job of coordinating the advertising with the editorial, the two complemented each other both in layout and design. There are also many unique forms of advertising happening in this publication including premium placements, advertorials that are designed with strong copy writing, and special sections.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany

This publication really stands out on layout, design and quality ad design.

THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca

This publication has great ad design, each ad having strong images and photos that draw in a reader to take notice. The copy editing on the ads is well done with strong call to action and layout on ads that allows the viewer to understand quickly what the advertiser is promoting. Strong classified section, well laid out and easy to read the listings.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton

This publication had strong ad presence, unique and beautifully designed ads and an exceptional classified section deserving honorable mentions.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

Very interesting and thorough story series about the farm's long history. Well done. I enjoyed the detail and storytelling.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

Very compelling and informative series during the early days of Covid-19. Well written and presented. Very important to your readers.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake

Peter Crowley, Diane Chase and Michael Miller

Excellent series introducing recent graduates to the community. Shows the importance of newspapers' hometown connection to the community. Well done.

HONORABLE MENTION

Gay City News, New York

Paul Schindler and Matt Tracy

Well done. A very informative series. A great service to the community.

BEST NEWS WEB SITE

FIRST PLACE

Queens Courier, Bayside

Fresh and clean look, good use of white space, cohesive design, extensive newsletter offerings, and easy navigation.

SECOND PLACE

City & State, New York

Clean, attractive design, easy to navigate, and deep content.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Classic and clean style that holds together well across the site.

THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Brian PJ Cronin

This newspaper and the communities of Cold Spring, Garrison, and Beacon are extremely fortunate to have this reporter. His exhaustive work on "The Fading Forrest" shows his commitment to the community. Without a doubt, this reporter spent months working on this. His editors may have, at times, wondered if it was worth spending so much time on a story about nature. It truly was worth it. Bravo.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

Melissa Hale-Spencer

This writer is an excellent journalist who dives deep into a story and takes ownership of that story. She did so much work on this.

THIRD PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Ambrose Clancy

This writer did an excellent job with this story. Unfortunately for him – but fortunately for the people of New York State – he had a lot of great competition from other incredible journalists doing great work in this division.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Chelsea Diana

Wow! This was an incredible tale. The reporter did a great job investigating and explaining the mess this man created. Great job!

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton
Taylor K. Vecsey

A lot of work and insight - this reporter handled this expertly and told a compelling story.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan and Tara Smith

This story provided a great community service - providing a warning and reporting on what happens when critical CDC guidance is ignored.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Rose Adams

In her investigation of nursing home deaths, the reporter valiantly searches for the truth and gives a voice to those who have been silenced. That's journalism. Unlike many of the other entries, Adams' story wasn't a follow-up to a press conference or a detailed look back at a criminal trial. Adams' investigation required much research and interviews. She also remained objective and made a sincere effort to cover this from all sides. Great work.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler and Arthur S. Leonard

On June 15, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that workers could not face discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Three days later, two reporters provided an incredibly detailed look at the high court's decision and its impact on American lives. Often stories about civil suits contain legal language that is difficult to understand. Reading this extensive coverage, I never once had to turn to a legal dictionary. Items and their impact were described for a general audience. Well done.

THIRD PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Rose Adams

This reporter excels in going beyond the headline. In this piece, she clearly demonstrates the desire to truly understand the issues. Life is complex. Humans are complicated. Reporters can be tempted to simplify. Rose explored this issue in depth.

COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan

This reporter reported clearly and thoroughly on issues that impacted the community, including an investigation at the police department and mistakes that lead to residents missing out on affordable housing. On the note of the police department investigation, the reporter spoke with residents who called the department regarding a large and loud party held at a retiring police dept. member's house. Those complaints were never logged on the department's end. Parpan reviewed the residents' call logs and confirmed they took place. He found the right sources, those who were missing their own celebrations and loved ones due to the coronavirus and explained their dismay with the sergeant's large party. With the chaos with the affordable housing chaos, the reporter spoke with residents who were on both sides of the mix ups, not just ones who were negatively impacted by it. His reporting is clear and concise, and allows readers to fully understand the small details, as well as the larger issue.

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Michael Hallisey and Jim Franco

These writers certainly live up to the name of their publication by shining light on potential corruption at local government levels. Through obtaining records, extensive interviews and attending public meetings, Hallisey and Franco thoroughly explain how a township official sold equipment without prior approval from the board, and then just a month later did the same when that same official exceeded his budget, resulting in a \$150K overdraft. On the other side, they make their community's voices heard when the town board begins its search for a new police chief. The reporters went beyond reporting on what was said during meetings and looked to social media to find more sources on the topic.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,
Saranac Lake

Aaron Cerbone and Elizabeth Izzo

These reporters displayed their commitment to keeping local officials accountable, the community's voices heard and transparency in local government while reporting on tricky issues, including voter fraud, racism and animal ordinances in the area. Cerbone and Izzo took the time and energy to clearly lay out and explain the issues, as well as examine how the community is impacted by these topics. They thoroughly reported on the topics by talking with the right sources and writing in a way that allows everyone to understand.

HONORABLE MENTION

Oyster Bay Guardian, Oyster Bay
Laura Lane and Mike Conn

These reporters reported extensively and in such a way that made reading about towns creating laws to prohibit meeting disruptions and oyster fishing leases memorable. Lane went beyond simply explaining the town's proposed law, designed to create a better atmosphere at public meetings, and showed how it could prohibit reporters from doing their jobs. Beyond speaking with town officials, they also spoke with the press association to explain the implications of this. They continued coverage on it by explaining why the judge ordered a rewrite. Together the writers tackled the town's new shell fishing lease and thoroughly explained what it could mean for the community and the environment, and why the town moved forward with the update.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport
David Ambro

This writer did a deep dive into the clerk's office and how the pandemic has impacted their work. He took the time and space to explain the job and the toll it took on them. He shows great investigative reporting skills, as he tackled lewd emails sent by town employees and another government employee attempting to use town funds to renovate his own home. The community is lucky to have a reporter with the level of skill and dedication that this writer has.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton
Kitty Merrill and Alec Giufurta

These reporters showed exemplary local government coverage through reporting on how local officials are complying with state mandates and orders to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, despite the governor stating otherwise, the importance of staffing the dispatch center and the mayor's lack of action on it, the town's very own supervisor participating in a massively crowded concert amid the ongoing pandemic and the mayor ousted from his home as his optical rival becomes his landlord. They did a nice job of explaining the issues and why it is important to the community. The reporters organized their articles well, spoke with a number of sources and put it into understandable terms.

THIRD PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
*Michael Hinman, Kirstyn Brendlen
and Anthony Capote*

An important story about homeless people displaced by subway shutdown.

COVERAGE OF EDUCATION

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
*Tara Smith, Kate Nalepinski
and Joe Werkmeister*

Strong collection of education stories ranging from COVID-19 to the vaping epidemic. Well-written articles give readers information on those topics.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
*Tara Smith, Joe Werkmeister,
Grant Parpan and Bob Liepa*

Good collection of education reporting from the past year. Strong comments in the "Seniors grapple with unfortunate reality" story.

THIRD PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester
Sarah Wolpoff

Well-written and thorough articles in the entries.

FIRST PLACE

The Photo News, Monroe
Becca Tucker, Molly Colgan and Hanna Wickes

Well-written series of articles with informative interviews. Kudos to the reporters behind the articles.

SECOND PLACE

Pelham Examiner, Pelham
Charlotte Howard

Story captures the anguish, disappointment that the Class of 2020 experienced during the pandemic.

THIRD PLACE

Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Zach Matson

Well-written articles give readers insight on how teachers, students and parents dealt with pandemic.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Cailin Riley, Stephen J. Kotz, Julia Heming, Desirée Keegan and Michelle Trauring

COVERAGE OF BUSINESS, FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC NEWS

FIRST PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Todd Sliss

It was refreshing to see out of the norm topics covered. The funeral industry in particular has affected so many families in such a heartbreaking way and most coverage has not broached the subject. Well Done!

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro, New York
Todd Maisel

Each story had a unique twist that kept me reading more. From the clothing store turned food pantry to the mob stories from days gone by. Well done!

THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown
David Ambro

Loved that you found unique ways of approaching well covered topics. Truly enjoyed the Bathroom Buddies story - if that doesn't restore your faith in community nothing will.

HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany
Articles were well written and informative. Art was eye appealing as well. I felt like I knew a great deal about the inner workings of the communities when I was done.

HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Courier, Bayside
Angélica Acevedo and Dean Moses
The use of art and descriptive writing made each story intriguing. Content was well covered and covered both consumer and owner sides.

COVERAGE OF THE ARTS

FIRST PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Michael Hallisey and Kaitlin Lembo

This entry covers it all - from artists to financials. Every article showcases excellence in both word and images.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Todd Sliss and Deborah Skolnik

What breadth of stories - from simple rock painting to top level poetry. It's a truly wonderful array of arts coverage.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Alison Rooney, Arvind Dilawar and Chip Rowe

These entries shine the light on some lesser-known arts, broadening both the definition and reader's understanding. The writing is taut and interesting.

FIRST PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Raphael Lassauze, Michael Hinman and Rose Brennan

These reporters demonstrate sensitivity in their writing, as well as insight into the artistic culture. The articles provide insight into the arts, while not talking down to the reader and still offering a fresh perspective.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Nicholas Boston, David Kennerley, Chris Byrne and Ryan Persadie

This coverage is presented with a unique voice, providing a look into the artists' motivation. The articles are well-written and appeal to every audience.

THIRD PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Benjamin Pomerance

These articles are so intriguing and invariably offer a great back story. The articles would be enhanced with typography and thoughtful pagination, but deserve recognition for their excellence.

HONORABLE MENTION

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Michelle Trauring, Annette Hinkle and Bryan Boyhan

The diversity of topics will provide something of interest for multiple audiences. The writing is well-crafted and articles well-researched.

COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

FIRST PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn
George Bellows

I read all the stories in the category and "Superfund science advances in Gowanus" kept coming back to mind. The description won me over. Black Mayo. Ugh. I could just smell and feel the water. Great job.

SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Explorer, Saranac Lake
Ry Rivard

Fascinating series about the after-effects of road salt on the environment, farms, trees, and health. This is an amazing body of work, extremely well done. The headlines are terrific too.

THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton
Christopher Walsh and Christine Sampson

Great ideas. Easy to read articles about everyday topics. These are stories that can be done in every community, but they aren't.

HONORABLE MENTION

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Aaron Cerbone and Elizabeth Izzo

Interesting stories. Colorful language. Nina Schoch had a loon in her bathtub. It wasn't the first time. Great way to lede into a story.

COVERAGE OF HEALTH, HEALTH CARE & SCIENCE

FIRST PLACE

Long Island Advance, Patchogue
Nicole Fuentes

Very informative and strong content for COVID coverage. Articles are written with flare yet find the points that need to be made. Very smart transitioning between topics.

SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Cailin Riley, Kitty Merrill, Mike Wright and Michelle Trauring

Wide array of topics in a strong category for a pandemic-stricken year. Well written. Timely topics. Strong command of the English language.

TIE - THIRD PLACE

The Cornwall Local, Cornwall
Jason Kaplan

Interesting and well-written take by those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Well researched and presented to readers in an easily readable format.

TIE - THIRD PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Becca Tucker and Hanna Wickes

Strong headlines that pull readers to stories that matter to them. Facts are presented in a clear and concise matter.

HONORABLE MENTION

Pelham Examiner, Pelham
Sophia Leung and Delia Lavallee

Very strong reporting with excellent writing skills. Great transitions and headlines that bring the reader in.

HEADLINE WRITING

FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Peter C. Mastro Simone and Katherine Donlevy

A tough group with lots of strong entries. This group of entries stood out. Well done!

SECOND PLACE

Bellmore Herald Life, Bellmore
Alyssa Seidman

Simple, effective and fun headlines from this group.

THIRD PLACE

Park Slope Courier, Brooklyn
Aidan Graham and Leah Mitch
Strong headlines that draw the reader in.

COVERAGE OF CRIME/POLICE/ COURTS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Excellent depth of reporting that goes beyond what happened to deliver insight and context. Readers are getting more than they bargained for with this local journalism. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan

These stories went beyond the basics and delivered accountability journalism that made them stand above the field.

THIRD PLACE

City & State, New York
Jeff Coltin Ben Adler and Amanda Luz Henning Santiago

Solid depth and probing throughout the reports.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Matt Tracy and Duncan Osborne
Thorough reporting on issues that go beyond the police news of the day and are critical to this moment in journalism.

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Kevin Duggan, Ben Verde, Jessica Parks and Paul Frangipane

Enterprising coverage of some of the most important topics of the year, above and beyond the typical crime coverage.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Ellis Giacomelli

Thorough coverage of a tragic death that rocked a small community.

COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS/ POLITICS

FIRST PLACE

Our Town East Side, New York
Emily Higginbotham and Michael Oreskes

Excellent in-depth coverage of local political election.

SECOND PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Becca Tucker, Molly Colgan, Jalen Crosby and Adam Emmerich

This entry included a strong collection of political stories. I especially enjoyed the look into purple marriages. The articles were well-written and interesting.

THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Nick Perrone, Valerie Abrahams, Todd Sliss and Kristen Bayrakdarian

Great story about early voting, long lines, and local election.

COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE

FIRST PLACE

The Chronicle, Goshen
Becca Tucker

This writer tackles the most important agricultural stories of 2020 with rich detail and strong writing.

SECOND PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid
Andy Flynn, Elizabeth Izzo, Carol Swirsky, Katherine McDonald and Naj Wikoff

With ag news, farm features and local food, Savor the Season offers the greatest breadth of coverage of any entry in this category.

THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Arleigh Rodgers and Bill Chaisson
In this entry, the Ithaca Times offers detailed and insightful coverage for readers to enjoy.

COVERAGE OF RELIGION

FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
*Katherine Donlevy, Mike Shain,
Mike Gannon and Max Parrott*

This newspaper provides broad coverage of all religious groups within its community. It focused on significant religious issues -- anti-Semitism, anti-Asian bias, how a large variety of religious groups coped with the pandemic, how a chaplain ministered to COVID patients. All the stories had high relevance. When appropriate -- in the anti-Semitism and anti-Asian stories, the reports were abundantly sourced and well-documented. Top-notch religious news coverage! One of the few entries to provide broad coverage of religious issues within its community. Topical, well-documented, multi-sourced stories. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Haitian Times
Sam Bojarski

This newspaper provided strong coverage of the hardships that the Haitian religious community has faced during the COVID pandemic. The enterprising stories are well written and, when appropriate, provide survey data that puts local conditions into a national context.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,
Saranac Lake
*Griffin Kelly, Elizabeth Izzo,
Aaron Cerbone and Peter Crowley*

This newspaper offered its reader wide-ranging coverage of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on churches and synagogues in its coverage area.

HONORABLE MENTION

Gay City News, New York
*Andy Humm, Matt Tracy, Donna Aceto,
Art Leonard and Paul Schindler*

This newspaper provided clear news coverage of the Methodist church breakup and thorough coverage of the Fulton v. City of Philadelphia civil rights case.

SPORTS FEATURE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Michael Turton

In a year where features were prevalent thanks to the pandemic, this pre-outbreak one was perfectly constructed. The looks back really explained her youth career and had a great twist -- her husband coaches.

SECOND PLACE

Hicksville Illustrated News, Hicksville
Dave Gil De Rubio

Well written, as it gave everything from the history to the current day in a limited space. As a reader, everyone was on the plate and the portions were perfect -- nothing was lacking.

THIRD PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester
Michael Iachetta

Comprehensive look at the life and accomplishments of an exceptional young woman, who had overcome many obstacles to reach grand heights.

HONORABLE MENTION

Malone Telegram, Malone
Evan Wheaton

Retrospective tells of opportunity ... and how life can throw it a curveball.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Todd Sliss

Youth sports are generally the toughest and covering a 10-year-old in a unique endeavor is worth noting regardless of awards. Getting so much into the article is key, even the part introducing the gym. Having so many quotes from the subject, and solid quotes at that, really elevates a well-written piece.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton
Cailin Riley

Opened so well with mom's photo and her quote. The article was long, but there was never a time where a reader wants to step aside. The information, whether his high school playing days or turns that lead to an NC State reference, just kept coming, and the pacing of the article keeps you looking for that next nugget.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Bob Liepa

Profile of honoree seemed to leave no stone unturned. Great detail going beyond the family mention to the family's coaching posts.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton
Desirée Keegan

Merger puts future in perspective. Good to touch on that.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Gregory Gay

This was an interesting approach to the pandemic, to basketball and to education. It's neat to see all three topics rolled into one.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Matt Tracy

This is a heartwarming story about an athlete I knew little about. It's a progressive approach for a league that continues to take the right stance on social justice issues.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Philip Sanzo

The right writer comes across at the right time to tell a story that would make any kid or parent feel scared during uncertain times. One might argue that this story writes itself, but the reporter finds a way to stay out of the way while making us feel it all.

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Philip Sanzo

I really enjoyed this trip down memory lane. The writer shows he knows his subjects and spent some time getting to know what made them love basketball and one another. It's a great idea for a piece and not many small papers have the staff to make something like this possible.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Drew Budd, Cailin Riley and Desirée Keegan

Strong photos, solid design and most importantly standout leads made this section shine in ways many in this category didn't. There was a lot of variety in the coverage, making it a must-have for sports fans in the area.

SECOND PLACE

The Yorktown News, Yorktown
Brian Marschhauser

There's a wide variety of content in this section, and the photos are among the best in the bunch.

THIRD PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport
Anthony Lifrieri and David Ambro

There were tons of celebrations for a single section. I'm not sure how these guys got so lucky to cover so many great moments all at one time.

SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester
Sarah Wolpoff

Yes. A pretty dramatic account of a fire that left families homeless. The lead in about the family, and into the fire, adds to the impact of the story.

SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Tara Smith and Grant Parpan

Although a straightforward news story, this is a well written piece with good quotes from the family, other scouts and the judge.

THIRD PLACE

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick
Scott Brinton, Alyssa Seidman, Andrew Garcia, Ronney Reyes, Bridget Downes

The amount of quotes from the public and the size of the protests work well in this story, and there is good use of photos. Overall, good coverage and reporting.

HONORABLE MENTION

Westmore News, Port Chester
Sarah Wolpoff

I like the lead into the story. I think that the protestors' quotes should have been higher up in the story to support it, for better flow. Overall, it's a good review of a protest during trying times for business owners.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Matt Leader, Alex Brasky, Brendan McDonough, Scott Desmit and Ben Beagle

This is a compelling story with good use of police information while actually telling the story. What's impressive is that one reporter stayed with the chase, and also the trust that the police evidently have for the reporter to provide all of these candid facts. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Matt Leader

Great, descriptive account of a horrific event, using real people to tell the story.

THIRD PLACE

The Examiner, Mount Kisco
Adam Stone

An interesting read with some good quotes from the teens and not just the school and law enforcement.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Stephen J. Kotz

This is a good first-person account of a spot news incident. It puts law enforcement in the background and focuses on the victim, and it is well written.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro, New York
Todd Maisel

You can't make this stuff up. Good writing throughout all of the stories, and good use of real people and quotes.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro, New York
Rose Adams, Emily Davenport and Todd Maisel

Good descriptive -- but gory piece -- that demonstrates the drama of how sick people in our society can be. I liked that the story was introduced with the real people instead of the police account. Good reporting and writing.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Michael Shain

This is a well written story that looks at what happened and also about the laxness of enforcement and the inability to make arrests. It covers a lot of angles.

HONORABLE MENTION

Park Slope Courier, Brooklyn
Ben Verde

This is a well written, concise, to-the-point account of what happened and incorporates strong quotes. The story itself is compelling to read. Were there any other apartment building dwellers who would talk?

NEWS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Leonard Sparks

A thoroughly researched and well-chronicled story on the long journey both this young girl and her mother took. I liked everything about this package, from the explainer on how it was done to the use of the subheads. Long story that didn't read long, but, man, great detail throughout.

SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Explorer, Saranac Lake
Gwendolyn Craig

Among the best-written pieces entered in this category, right from the get-go. Reporting was solid. Sprinkled in some numbers. A well-told overview of both the park and the diversity initiative.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A solid big-picture look at an ongoing dispute. Writing was clean. We got both sides and insights into why this plot of ground remains in the middle of a tug of war.

HONORABLE MENTION

Westmore News, Port Chester

Sarah Wolpoff

This story got better the longer it went. Loads of depth. Strong quotes.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Grant Parpan

Crisply written article with multiple sources and great sequencing of ideas by the reporter. Also, the writer's voice was nowhere to be found, which denotes capable reporting.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

Nick Perrone

Great use of narrative in a news story. The writer put me behind these students all the way.

THIRD PLACE

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald,

Lynbrook

Mike Smollins

Like that he went kayaking to better understand the story. Well reported. Not a lot of data but certainly plenty of detail.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Examiner, Mount Kisco

Martin Wilbur

Very well-written and with very effective use of quotes.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton

Greg Wehner

This story offers a clear, concise and fascinating look into bail reform. A good lead draws in the reader, and this one certainly did. A clear standout in the category.

SECOND PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx

Michael Hinman

This story is a clear, concise, thorough picture of the early toll of coronavirus on nursing homes. It is engaging, well-structured and informative. Well done.

THIRD PLACE

Pelham Examiner, Pelham

Sophia Leung, Delia Lavallee

This story made me feel — and after decades in the news business, I don't do that often. Well done.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport

David Ambro

An important story, well told, about the vital role of AEDs - and the lives saved. Detailed, personal account - well done.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Ledger, Queens

Benjamin Fang

Any story about childhood cancer, the toll it takes on families, and the amazing strength of the children profiled, is profound, but this writer takes it to another level.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket

Julianne Mosher

Well done, with good interviews that give the reader the complete picture.

HONORABLE MENTION

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson

Kyle Barr

Well done. Bar owners and restaurants need help, not harassment. Kept it short and kept to the point (thank you)

DIVISION 5

FIRST PLACE

Gay City News, New York

Andy Humm

A well-told life story from start to finish by a writer who obviously knew well Mr. Kramer's career and impact and made good use of that knowledge. Really liked the lead, the mix of voices, the timeline, the details.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Timothy Bolger

Well-reported, good use of quotes and sources, and a solid view from the sky of a community airport and the debate over its future.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Taylor K. Vecsey and Jessica Mackin-Cipro

A solid follow to a concert in the midst of the pandemic that left many questioning how closely it followed mitigation guidelines. Hit the main issues and provided some new info, such as the cost for policing the event being pushed up by the need for more security.

HONORABLE MENTION

Norwood News, Bronx

Síle Moloney

Well written. Well researched. Put this under the category of explanatory, and how and why sex trafficking has become such a major problem in that community as it has globally. If it lacked anything, it was more data to complement the anecdotes.

FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,

Saranac Lake

Aaron Cerbone

Very well written and compelling story. Photos also add to the feature. I found it very informative. Great job!

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg

Scott Rando

Great feature story with wonderful photos. Very informative and interesting. Also, nice layout design on the first page.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead

Cailin Riley

Very well written and informative feature story. Great job!

HONORABLE MENTION

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,

Saranac Lake

Amy Scattergood

Very well written and cute story about a chipmunk. Great photos! I enjoyed the whole feature package.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Greenville Pioneer, Ravena

Joanne E. McFadden

I enjoyed this story. It was very interesting and well written. Good job!

First Place

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Jeff Simms

This chicken tale is absolutely delightful, from the first word to the last. The story is well crafted. The writer has a firm understanding of language usage and creates a captivating yarn. This story makes you want to invite this chicken to dinner, and not as the main course. It could have included a bit more information about the woman and her family, but doesn't detract without it. This is a fun narrative, and a fine example of a feature article.

SECOND PLACE

Malverne W Hempstead Herald,
Malverne
Nakeem Grant

This is a delightful feature story on an interesting, not overly written about topic. The writer shows a definite command and understanding of and ability to use language to paint the necessary picture in words. This is a thoroughly enjoyable article, a joy to read, well crafted, and fun.

THIRD PLACE

Long Island Press, Syosset
Annie Wilkonson

Interesting retelling of an historical event linking it to current affairs. The writer shows above-average command of language with few flaws, quite a serious accomplishment. This was not only informative, but also educational in a light, fun way. The writer draws in the reader, captivating the imagination from the first word to the tag line. Quite enjoyable.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Record-Review, Bedford
Jeff Morris

This story about such a remarkable woman deserves an equally remarkable telling. It was a nice, inclusive tribute to this woman. This writer shows promise.

HONORABLE MENTION

Westmore News, Port Chester
Victoria Bresnahan

This is an incredibly heartwarming story told in a voice to draw in the reader. It brings attention to the status of the youthful undocumented population, something with which not everyone is familiar. A worthy effort.

FIRST PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Benjamin Pomerance

This is a fun story, beginning to end. It's well told, drawing in the reader, who by the tagline is ready for some ice cream. It is well crafted, painting quite lovely pictures with words. The writer demonstrates a fine command of language not often found these days.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Valerie Abrahams

This is a delightful feature. It engages the reader from first word to last, is well written, and the topic may not be one many people think about, until they have need of a cab. The addition of the sidebar was an exceptional touch.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Chelsea Diana

This is a well-rounded, thoroughly researched article. This story hits upon an incredibly important topic. Women's right have been a longtime happening. This virus is wreaking havoc with those accomplishments, and this story puts faces to the problems women are now facing. The writer tells their stories with passion and zeal.

HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany
Michael DeMasi

Interesting article on a side of the pandemic many people may not consider.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Star, Oneonta
Sarah Eames

Interesting story showcasing a unique side of the virus-corrupted world of 2020. This story is well written, drawing in the reader. It flows easily from first word to last, and makes the reader want to continue reading until the end.

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Michelle Trauring

A heartbreaking feature that skillfully combines devastating first-person narratives and just the right amount of context and background. The kind of story future generations will read in the decades to come to get a true understanding of the sorrow and horror of the moment.

SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Bryan Boyhan

Was riveted from the first paragraph of the well-paced lede. An authoritative, deeply reported feature on a tragedy with local ties. The reporter brought a strong narrative style, perfectly suited to this kind of story.

THIRD PLACE

The Yorktown News, Yorktown
Brian Marschhauser, Jodi Weinberger and Christina Rose

Exceptionally strong effort to capture protests against police brutality across a community. The reporter of the main story centered the voices of young organizers and of people directly affected by racism to create an impactful snapshot of an important moment in history.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Michael Hinman

A great combination of original sleuthing and history. The reporter has a clean, direct style that's a pleasure to read.

HONORABLE MENTION

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton
Irene Silverman

I loved the reporter's approach to unraveling a decades-old mystery, which clearly involved quite a bit of reporting. The piece was also punctuated with great style (Ecstasy! Agony!).

FIRST PLACE

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson
Kyle Barr

This piece was extremely well done and not only covered the history of the event, but brought the emotions of it to the forefront.

SECOND PLACE

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson

Daniel Duaief

This story brought us the stories of healthcare heroes that have been so important in all of our communities this past year.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket

Julianne Mosher

This story shows the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic. It may not be about healthcare workers, but it told a story of resilience on the part of businesses and young people looking to have some sense of normalcy.

DIVISION 6

FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Kayla Breen

During this year of COVID-19, this piece tells an incredible story of bravery, courage and service that has been seen all over the country.

SECOND PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Robin Caudell

The author did an incredible job of telling the history but also making the reader feel like they were there with the subject as he went through captivity until his liberation.

THIRD PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport

David Ambro

I believe this story could hit home in every community across the country. The author did a great job of telling Mr. November's story.

HONORABLE MENTION

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick

Becca Tucker

DIVISION 7

FIRST PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca

Adam Messinger

This is a fascinating feature that undoubtedly had been little-known. The reporter does a terrific job of tying it to the local area. The outstanding details chronicled, even decades after they occurred, right down to the purple lipstick on the cigarette butt, made for a fascinating read. And talking with the only other author of Courtney Love's story in Ithaca actually made the story even more compelling. Terrific job. This story really separated itself in a very competitive category.

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn

Rose Adams

This is a really strong entry. The reporter found four people who representing four different viewpoints and four different life experiences and tied them all together in a common cause. She was able to capture each individual in tightly written, easy-to-follow segments and really brought a good perspective to why these leaders got to the place in life they were in leading the protest movement. Very well done. This entry really stood out because of its clarity and mission to provide context on why these people do what they do.

THIRD PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn

Kevin Duggan and Meaghan McGoldrick

This story does a nice job mid-pandemic to highlight the issues and struggles of small-business diner owners, bringing in real-life people and the difficult issues the pandemic has brought. It took the government to task without being preachy or with an advocate's voice. It laid out the facts. Well done.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Timothy Bolger

Good story, breaking down this issues of air traffic and the effects (or lack thereof), given the makeup of the community with year-round and seasonal residents. Does a nice job putting in context the lack of effect shutting one airport would have on the area.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Lee Meyer

Good breakdown of the issue with Shinnecock Nation and its fight with the state. Interesting story.

BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Jeff Simms and Leonard Sparks

This newspaper's pandemic series covers a lot of ground in detail with the best use of graphics in the category.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Brian PJ Cronin

Rich writing and strong photography make this series a pleasure to read.

THIRD PLACE

Warsaw's Country Courier, Warsaw

Shelly Ferullo

Good, detailed writing earns this series a spot on the awards list.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh

Benjamin Pomerance

This is a wonderful piece. It tugged at my emotions. Well written articles. The writer has a fine way with his words in all of the articles.

SECOND PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon

Patricio Robayo

What fun. Thank you for these. A bit of inspiration by the week, from April to June. It's quite a series.

THIRD PLACE

Colonie Spotlight, Colonie

Jim Franco

Good work here. Story holds together, keeps the readers' interest.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Star, Oneonta
Sarah Eames

A sad tale (tail?) told well. Strong descriptions engage the reader. Animal cruelty is a difficult subject, and I think the series does a fine job with the crime, the impact on the dogs, and the reactions of caregivers and the Best News or Feature Series

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Star, Oneonta

Good work on following an evolving story.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach
Michelle Trauring, Bryan Boyhan and Julia Heming

Wow, a wonderful set of stories with fantastic pictures. The drama of the event is told well. Good job to follow-up with the 'today' story, looking at the recovery from fire. Loved the telling of the fireman's story.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Ledger, Queens
Benjamin Fang

Thorough and balanced work. Good job with good photos in support.

THIRD PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Thorough exploration of an interesting subject. Loved the interviews with elected leaders as these stories add layers to the whole. A worthwhile read.

HONORABLE MENTION

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Good stuff. This dives right into the issue, lays out the scope of the problems, and gives the reader people stories as to the impact. A good read all around. Nearly Third Place place (4th if that was awarded)

HONORABLE MENTION

The Riverdale Press, Bronx

Kirstyn Brendlen, Julius Constantine Motal

Good work, well written. It tugs a bit on emotions.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Rose Adams, Ben Verde, Kevin Duggan, Jessica Parks and Aidan Graham

Excellent series. Well written. Great job on such a tough subject.

SECOND PLACE

New York Law Journal, New York
Jason Grant

Well written feature. Very compelling and informative. Solid reporting.

THIRD PLACE

Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic, Brooklyn
Rose Adams, Kevin Duggan and Todd Maisel

Well written series. Very compelling and informative. Great Job!

HONORABLE MENTION

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Rose Adams, Ben Verde, Kevin Duggan and Meaghan McGoldrick

Well written and informative. Great job!

HONORABLE MENTION

The West Side Spirit, New York
Michael Oreskes

Well written series. Great job!

BEST OBITUARIES

FIRST PLACE

Sea Cliff Glen Head Herald Gazette, Glen Cove
Mike Conn

These obituaries immediately transport you to a day in the life of a person who has, sadly, died. In a story of Ed Smith, we are transported to the moment when a music teacher takes his last breath while listening to his favorite music. In his second submission on the death of Tom Malloy – he takes us to Malloy's childhood. We can see Tom making mischief with "plastic straw peashooters." The entries were of "every day" people – not celebrities or politicians. Many of the other "best obituaries" submitted were of folks with a long list of news clips to source from the archives. This work was real journalism; interviews, research and carving out the story with aplomb. Excellent job.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Bob Liepa, Joe Werkmeister and Lauren Sisson

Each entry was well reported, though my heart ached especially in the story of Edward and Joan Porco. Much work clearly went into this piece. The reporters excelled in bringing forth that story.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Joe Werkmeister, Lauren Sisson and Tim Gannon

This reporter has demonstrated a rare talent in bringing to life those who have passed. His obituaries resonate with unique and intimate moments from a life lost.

EDITORIALS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Melissa Hale-Spencer

These editorials take on controversial subjects. They get results, too. The writer is a clear-cut winner in this category as a bright journalist with watchdog instincts.

SECOND PLACE

Shawangunk Journal, Ellenville
Lisa Reider and Amberly Jane Campbell

This is an exceptionally strong writer and her columns on Black Lives Matter and the recipient of her brother's lungs are both excellent. She approaches hard-to-tell stories with a refreshing openness which is one reason this entry is so strong.

THIRD PLACE

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick
Scott Brinton

This is a strong editorial writer with good ideas and a clear sense of direction. He supports his persuasive arguments well, especially the decision to join AP and NYT in changing the style of Black.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid
Andy Flynn

This is a strong editorial writer. His strong positions to protect the environment in the Adirondack's comes across well in his viewpoint. Here is an editor with a commitment to community. Good work.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park

Steven Blank

This entry was the strongest of the contest, with sharp, reasoned commentary on intensely local issues. The writer(s) turned some nice phrases without being too sarcastic to make their points. The Indian mascots and property tax pieces were especially strong and handled sensitive racial issues extremely well. Nice job.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Star, Oneonta

Denielle Cazzolla

Three strong editorials, led by the ouster of the local SUNY leader. The pedestrian issue also has a strong call for action for a long-time safety issue.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition Southampton

An especially strong editorial on Congressman Zeldin led a solid entry. The piece on Zeldin in Tulsa was solid and the Shinnecock Nation editorial was good.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Star, Oneonta

Robert Cairns

Three solid editorials, with the calling out of the SUNY system the strongest.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Mark Mahoney

Outstanding reasoning and well-written editorials on the SUNY president's selection -- absolutely right in calling out system on that one -- nursing home deaths and mandatory vaccinations. This entry was strong from start to finish. Very solid justification for the publication's stance in each case. Really strong entry.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

Peter C. Mastro Simone

This is an incredibly strong entry. No doubt is left to the reader where the paper stands. The e-bike DUI and "cluster luck" -- clever! -- were particularly strong. The Carranza letter was a bold approach that grew on me as I thought about it. Well done. Strong opinions, tightly written.

THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York

Paul Schindler

The blood donations piece may have been the best single editorial in the contest. The tribute to John Lewis also was particularly strong and engaging to this paper's audience. The SAGE editorial was very good. This was a terrific entry with the paper taking strong, meaningful stances.

HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Ledger, Queens

Benjamin Fang

The reopening of public schools editorial was the strongest of the bunch. All three in the entry were solid and sensible.

BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Michael Turton

This is a first-rate community columnist who combines reporting with his own insight and perspectives on subjects. These three columns illustrate his writing talents and his interviewing skills. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid

Naj Wikoff

This is a strong writer and a good columnist. His columns go beyond his own experiences with good reporting and strong storytelling.

THIRD PLACE

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick

Scott Brinton

A beautifully written column about a bench, of all things, and the simple reminders of what makes a home. I enjoyed this read.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Brian PJ Cronin

An entertaining read about modern day Frogger.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Joe Werkmeister

I experienced a true array of emotions reading these columns. They are moving, emotional, thought-provoking and well-written -- a clear stand-out in the competition.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Star, Oneonta

Sarah Eames

This column gave me chills. It is a well-written description of the life of a news reporter. Nice job reminding people that reporters are people, too.

THIRD PLACE

Eagle Bulletin, Fayetteville

David Tyler

This body of work was well done. The columns chosen reflect an array of topics that are relevant to everyone.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Riverdale Press, Bronx

Michael Hinman

These are well-written, interesting and keep a reader's attention.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton

Marilee Foster

Beautiful descriptions make me experience the writer's keen sense of place. This columnist also shows great depth of knowledge in community. These pieces also achieve so much with such a small inch count. A pleasure to read!

SECOND PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs

Carol Godette, Marisa Scirocco and Kacie Cotter-Sacala

Wonderful celebration of sense of the place. Good, strong, clear writing. Well researched and presented in compact, straightforward pieces.

THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown
Matt Kindelmann

This columnist follows a well-worn path of presenting personal experiences the writer believes we hold universal. Most often, those pieces fall short. Not here. Through careful selection and presentation of subject matter, and an engaging writerly voice, this columnist pulls off the magic that comes when a piece stirs memories and recollections in the reader. Well done!

EDITORIAL CARTOON

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Peter Waldner

Perfectly captures the overwhelming feeling or gratitude that most readers feel (felt) during the first few months of the pandemic.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Carol Coogan

What a truly prophetic image, published so early in the pandemic, at least in the United States. So very true then, and still true almost 11 months later.

THIRD PLACE

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora
Jon Penfold
Excellent cartoon! really gets a reader to think.

HONORABLE MENTION

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora
Jon Penfold
Would consider it funny if it wasn't so serious. Nice job!

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Peter Waldner

No mincing words here. A very blunt statement perfectly understood.

SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Marshall Hopkins

Great cartoon. Makes a reader think, almost makes them laugh, if it wasn't so serious a topic.

THIRD PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Peter Waldner

Isn't this the truth! Amazing that it was created on 3/16/20.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Peter Waldner
Very powerful!

BEST USE OF VIDEO

FIRST PLACE

GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue
Nicholas Esposito and Andrew Theodorakis

This video has such unusual subject matter, it was surely got great play.

SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Joe Werkmeister

Emotionally powerful tribute to a fallen NYPD officer, husband, son. Compelling personal stories.

THIRD PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Katie McFadden

Anyone who views this video thinks Holiday Cheer!!

HONORABLE MENTION

amNewYork Metro, New York
Joe Pantorno

BEST ONLINE STATIC AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence

This is one terrific ad - somebody deserves special recognition for a great idea extremely well executed.

SECOND PLACE

Glen Cove Herald Gazette, Glen Cove
Very creative, eye-catching, memorable. Everything you want an ad to be.

THIRD PLACE

Oceanside Island Park Herald, Oceanside
Simple but says it all. Great photo.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Matt Sourwine

Clean and compelling - color is a standout.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union, Albany

Jill Ginac

Very well done - personal, great design.

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Kayleigh Tarbet

Fabulous design - great job. Very classy.

BEST ONLINE DYNAMIC AD

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Times Union, Albany

John Michaels

Upbeat theme much needed - well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Kayleigh Tarbet

Thoughtful messaging, good graphics.

THIRD PLACE

Times Union, Albany

John Michaels

Good layout, good graphics, strong message.

BEST E-MAIL MARKETING

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton

Christine Sampson

Enjoyed the consistency of layouts. Art was inviting. Recipes are always successful. Look back is certain to grab history buffs as well.

SECOND PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park

Lorens Morris-Rawlings

Art is eye appealing. Color choices are great. Information is concise.

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Matt Sourwine

Appealing layout. Comprehensive topics showing a number of offerings for a variety of consumers.

BEST ONLINE NEWS PROJECT OR PRESENTATION

FIRST PLACE

Mendon-Honeoye Falls-Lima Sentinel, Mendon

Christopher Carosa

I'm not sure if this weekly roundup was developed before COVID or after COVID, but it was a good idea either way. It had the right number of participants, the pace was brisk, the questions and answers were relevant, and it achieved what it wanted to do in under 30 minutes. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton

Bill Sutton

A real good job, one that explored an important topic for that community. The moderator kept the conversation going and got everyone involved.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Chip Rowe

As a newsletter, I thought it was effective, particularly during a period of time when we all were shut inside and quarantining. I liked the informal tone, the use of first person, the photos, couple with the information included in it.

HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Courier, Bayside

Jacob Kaye

I thought it was a good effort with an interesting mix of voices. Informative, for sure, as to what this cross-section of individuals were thinking and how they were behind affected by the virus.

FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

East Meadow Herald, East Meadow
Brian Stieglitz

Run away winner for the division. Great moment found at an event. Love the face reaction.

SECOND PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Don Bindler

Very nice find. Investing the time to get the precise moment paid off.

THIRD PLACE

The Columbia Paper, Ghent

David Lee

Very fun moment from a general evening. The lines and different movements make the image.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Ross Corsair

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Michael Heller

Brilliant use of lighting. I also applaud the photographer's decision to shoot a wider perspective to add some dimension to this scene. Nicely done.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany

Donna Abbott-Vlahos

Excellent expressions. The photo says it all. This is a moment that perfectly captures a mom's busy lifestyle.

THIRD PLACE

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach

Christina Daly

Excellent lighting, shadows and expression. You can almost feel the anxiety as this child tries to complete the tasks. Nicely done.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Star, Oneonta

Sarah Eames

Nice feature photo. Love that it is captured extemporaneously.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown

Kara Dry

Without any explanation, the photo tells the story. The colors pop and the framing of the flag's reflection around the gentleman's face is perfect. The photo is wonderful and tugs at your heartstrings.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown

Sydney Schaefer

A great shot of a lighthearted and unique event.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Courier, Bayside

Dean Moses

The photographer captured the energy and vibrancy of the event and told the story through their lens.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Smithtown News, Smithtown

David Ambro

The powerful photo of two young protesters tells the story. The photographer captured their facial expressions and their energy.

SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Reporter, Walton

Benjamin Patton

Incredible work by this photographer. These photos make you feel like you're at the event.

SECOND PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson

Jim MacLean

The action is great in this photo, but the eyes of the athletes really make it stand out.

THIRD PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester

Joseph DeCarlo

Great work by this photographer to catch the ball in midair. I've taken and seen plenty of these kind of shots and this is among the best.

HONORABLE MENTION

Baldwin Herald, Baldwin

Jeff Wilson

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Michael Heller

Just incredible work by the photographer here. While the action in the middle is key, the emotions of all the players makes it even better.

SECOND PLACE

Colonie Spotlight, Colonie

Jim Franco

Great action, but the facial expressions really sell this photo. Good work.

THIRD PLACE

Glen Cove Herald Gazette,
Glen Cove

Brian Ballweg

Incredible action in this shot. I've shot wrestling for 20 years and this is a photo I would be extremely proud of.

HONORABLE MENTION

Rockville Centre Herald,
Rockville Centre

Anthony Hughes

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Kayla Breen

The emotion of this photo makes it a great shot.

SECOND PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport
Peggy Gallery

Might not be the best action photo, but it tells the story of the moment. Athletes of all ages will look at this photo and know exactly what that runner was feeling. Good work.

THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown
Steve Zaitz

Great collection of wrestling photos. Each one was strong for different reasons. Nice work.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Smithtown News, Smithtown
Peggy Gallery

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise,
Hastings-on-Hudson

Jim MacLean

There's so much emotion in this shot. The contrast between the heartbroken athlete and the saddened coach tells a story. There's also a lot of love here.

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar

Jim Franco

I've heard a lot of unique stories about the pandemic, but nothing like this. It's a shot that likely would not mean much in another year, but feels perfect for 2020.

THIRD PLACE

The Record-Review, Bedford

Jim MacLean

A photographer must be quick on the trigger to catch a shot like this. The dark background makes for striking composition and it's expertly framed.

HONORABLE MENTION

Oyster Bay Guardian, Oyster Bay

Anthony Hughes

Who doesn't love a great celebration shot?

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton

Michael Heller

I feel like I want to jump in the water just looking at the excited expressions of the kids. There's a lot of love in these shots.

SECOND PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown

Peggy Gallery

The photographer caught a cool event at a perfect angle that feels a little like a hall of mirrors. It perfectly frames the athleticism and synchronization involved in the event.

THIRD PLACE

The Times of Smithtown Township,
Smithtown

Steven Zaitz

In our state, it's no longer allowed to tank the catcher. If the same is true in New York, at least this little guy got as much as he could out of his illegal action. The determined catcher's expression completes the scene. I'd have liked to see it in color.

HONORABLE MENTION

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

Joey LaFranca

This shot could be taken at nearly any basketball game across the country, but there's a lot of joy in this shot and it's framed well.

ART PHOTO

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Suffolk County News, Sayville

Ryan Sweezey

The colors, perspective and depth of field create a sense of motion in this image of still water. This is an image that you keep looking at and discovering new things all the time. It is compelling and interesting.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany

Donna Abbott-Vlahos

The framing of this image is excellent incorporating architecture, a message on a building and perspective. The depth of colors and design craft a compelling image.

THIRD PLACE

The Reporter, Walton

Benjamin Patton

This image creates interest for the viewer on many levels. It successfully melds vivid color at the bottom of the frame and transitioning to subtle shading at the top. It took a perceptive photographer's eye to capture this image.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown

Kara Dry

The details in this image work to create depth and perspective, while the complementary colors add vibrancy. This is an image that holds interest for viewers.

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press,
East Hampton

Michael Heller

The abstract quality of this photo, as created through blocks of color and light, is excellent. This will get readers to look and study this image.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

Michael Shain

The photographer did well in creating a human-like presence with the two viewing stands. The variety of texture between sand, fence, cloud and tile is well crafted. The details are crisp and intriguing.

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown

Christopher Lenney

The bird's eye perspective offers an overview of the entire construction site, successfully telling the story of the work involved in creating this Ice Palace. Although the color palette is limited, it is used effectively to create the sense of the season.

PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester
Sarah Wolpoff and Victoria Bresnahan
Powerful photos that strongly shared a relevant and important message for the community.

SECOND PLACE

Alden Advertiser, Alden
Rick Penny, BonnieLee James and Vikki Weisbeck
Love the personalities that were captured clearly enjoying the celebration in a year celebrations were few and far between.

THIRD PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester
Victoria Bresnahan
Great action photos and thorough coverage of topic.

HONORABLE MENTION

Long Island Advance, Patchogue
Nicole Fuentes
Photos immediately brought a smile. Wonderful to see readers involved in submitting content.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Ross Corsair
Great way to tell the story and share the impact Covid had in so many aspects of our lives.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Jim Franco
Photos are compelling. Easy to tell how much the messages mean.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean
Great shots of happiness on faces that were robbed from much of their senior year moments.

THIRD PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Katie McFadden, Laura Deckelman and Larry Moore
Great way to show the community the progress that has been made as everyone continues to recover from the storm.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Yorktown News, Yorktown
Brian Marschhauser
Great idea! Love the way stories take almost a social media aspect to make sure neighbors know what everyone is up to during pandemic.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Long Island Weekly, Mineola
Alex Nunez
Photos show amazing fortitude and compassion during times where the word heroes took on a whole new meaning for most.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Kara Dry
Photos do an impressive job of sharing community grief and support for the lost worker.

THIRD PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport
Brady Ambro and David Ambro
Great Photos. Would have enjoyed seeing them used more prominently together in paper.

SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick
Scott Brinton
These photos of a Black Lives Matter march capture the determination, fervor and peaceful camaraderie of protestors. Unlike many photographers, he got into the crowds, allowing the faces of participants to tell their story.

SECOND PLACE

The Reporter, Walton
Benjamin Patton
This photo array of a BLM protest contains several poignant images. The young man kneeling with flowers at a photo of victim and his capture of protestors confronting a protest opponents vividly capture the range of emotions at the protest.

THIRD PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester
Victoria Bresnahan
With a single image, this photo shows the serious resolve on Black Lives Matter marchers. Readers know in an instance what the march was about and who was participating. It's a photo chock full of information.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Daily Star, Oneonta
Sarah Eames
This gallery of photos gave readers a splendidly rich view of the participants in a confrontation between Black Lives Matter supporters and opponents. Both overview shots and close-up portraits showed the emotions on both sides.

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Jim Franco
This photo shows the churning clash of Black Lives Matter protestors and anti-protestors at a Back the Blue rally. On the faces of the participants one sees fear, uncertainty, and seething anger, the emotions of a moment when two sides collide.

THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Matt Shortall
The photographer turned his camera on the participants in a Memorial Day ceremony, giving readers of the Sullivan County Democrat a poignant look at the aging participants in a tribute to those who served and died in the Armed Forces.

DIVISION 3

First Place

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Steven Zaitz
The moment that tells the whole story. Great shot to sum up all sides and be fair to all points.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro, New York
Todd Maisel
A strong group of images which give a range of emotions.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Christopher Lenney

Nice way to use a drone to show a moment in which you can tell the complete story and give a strong visual.

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Carol Coogan

Wonderful illustration of this story. This is a talented artist with great illustrative skills.

SECOND PLACE

Oyster Bay Guardian, Oyster Bay
Christina Daly

Unique way to present information. It's clean and uncluttered, the mark of a good infographic.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Summer Pierre

It's nicely done. Style is simplistic. Overall, clean and tells the story -- exactly what you hope for an illustration.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Sara Mannino Kent and Kerri Cunningham

Great use of illustration AND graphic to tell the story. The page design is excellent as this team of artists combines talents in a dynamic page presentation.

SECOND PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Dennise Little

Top notch section fronts.

THIRD PLACE

The Somers Record, Somers
Christina Rose

Good illustration and helpful tips. Nicely done.

HONORABLE MENTION

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Christina Scotti, Adam Emmerich

Strong graphic presentation that tells the story at a glance -- exactly what a good informational graphic should do.

BEST SPECIAL SECTION COVER

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Donna Abbott-Vlahos and Kristina Walser

Well-framed photo with interesting lighting and tight, concise graphics. Clearly a winner in a strong category.

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg
Amanda Reed

Simple but eye-catching design. Straight-forward with clean fonts that don't draw attention away from nice image.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Donna Abbott-Vlahos and Kristina Walser

Tremendous photo, well-framed, cool lighting. I like the idea of letting the image speak for itself and not overwhelming with clunky words or graphics.

HONORABLE MENTION

North Salem News, North Salem
Ben Allen and Christina Rose

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller and Bryan Boyhan

This cover is delightfully simple yet sophisticated with a touch of Norman Rockwell. It is elegant and inviting. The type face for the words THE HOLIDAY BOOK was the perfect choice.

SECOND PLACE

The West Side Spirit, New York
Christina Scotti

This cover on the Future of Education communicates to the reader everything he or she needs to know. The complexity of our future world and the young minds who will have to tackle them (perhaps while wearing a mask.) It features an attractive design and good typeface choices. Not overcrowded with too many promos.

THIRD PLACE

Our Town East Side, New York
Michael Guillen

The idea for this section was unique among the entries. I liked just about everything about it. The photo choice, the typeface, the urban design, the limited refers to inside content -- it all worked.

HONORABLE MENTION

Our Town East Side, New York
Adam Emmerich

Another elegantly simple, yet sophisticated cover. This one features a classic but modern photo of a still under-construction skyline and a clean typeface that really worked.

SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

East Meadow Herald, East Meadow
It is visually overwhelming but given the subject matter that seems appropriate.

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg
Laurie Stuart and Amanda Reed
Good visual variety.

TIE - THIRD PLACE

Long Island Advance, Patchogue
Nicole Fuentes, Glenn Rohrbacker, Sam Desmond, Randall Waszynski
Great photos.

TIE THIRD PLACE

Granville Sentinel, Granville
Jared Stamm and Jane Cosey

At first I was concerned about the outer two columns being too much vertical line, but when you take into account the intended layout of printed pages (rather than the pdf) I think it works very well.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Michael Hinman

I love this. What a creative idea. I feel like I'm back in the 1950's. The front-page photo sets the tone for the entire issue. What a great way to celebrate the newspapers 70th anniversary. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
This is great. Nicely designed from front to back. Great flow and visual variation.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Great. Clean layout that is both visually interesting and sophisticated.

HONORABLE MENTION

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Layouts toward the back were stronger and more engaging than the front.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Examiner, Mount Kisco
Overall I like this. My only real negative is some of the font choices. I know a section like this can be a challenging jigsaw puzzle and I feel this turned out very well.

DIVISION 3**FIRST PLACE**

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
During this rough time for everyone, this special section lets everyone know who is open for business and informs the public where to go to have fun.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Genevieve Horsburgh
Very informative and well put together special section.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Genevieve Horsburgh
Family oriented special section shows what is out there for families to do with kids during the summer.

DIVISION 4**FIRST PLACE**

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
What a unique idea for a children's school project. So fun to see how the kids think and what is important to them. There are some really talented kids out there.

SECOND PLACE

Daily Sentinel, Oneida
Very nice!

THIRD PLACE

Times Union, Albany
Jill Ginac
Nice clean cover.

SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-GLOSSY**DIVISION 2****FIRST PLACE**

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Well done - certain to engage the community in this important local event,

SECOND PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Great section with nice clean photos and advertisements.

THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Great magazine.

DIVISION 3**FIRST PLACE**

Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler and Amanda Tarley
Important work, well done!

TIE -SECOND PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Great idea for the holiday, ads look great.

TIE - SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Very nice section.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
This section was put together very well, that ads look great, nice clean magazine.

DIVISION 4**FIRST PLACE**

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
Far beyond a standard issue special section - nicely done!

SECOND PLACE

Daily Sentinel, Oneida
Snowmobile aficionados will hang onto this magazine.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Susan Moore
Wonderful - sure to generate local engagement.

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE OR NON-PROFIT SPECIAL SECTION**FIRST PLACE**

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
What a fantastic section to put together for Senior Class, their families, and the community during a pandemic. Outstanding work!

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
It is obvious a tremendous amount of work and resources went in to publishing this directory. A great benefit that a local media company can provide for its community!

THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Historical sections like this are fun to read and important for a media company to recognize and present to their community. This one was very well done!

HONORABLE MENTION

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Tanner Harding
It's great to read about a newspaper company taking responsibility for directing its readers to give and support local organizations. Very nice job!

MAGAZINE**DIVISION 2****FIRST PLACE**

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs
Chris Vallone Bushee and Marisa Scirocco
Outstanding magazine, especially since the issue was published during the pandemic. Makes me want to visit Saratoga!

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Loved the way this magazine is put together! Great mix of content with advertising, and I especially liked the Foodie's Guide and Endpage. Hey Now!

THIRD PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Very creative. The stories are engaging.
Nice job!

HONORABLE MENTION

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Isabel Braverman
Very informative and well put together.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
Extremely well done. Great job with the main feature, 20 Under 40, but good additional content and advertising as well.

SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Mary Jo Kravec and Amy Bleier Long
Very topical, great mix of ads with content.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
Very good edition. Focuses well on the cover story with other topics covered nicely.
Great mix of ads.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Mary Jo Kravec and Amy Bleier Long
Nice job!

BEST REAL ESTATE/HOME SECTION

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Genevieve Horsburgh
This is just flat-out gorgeous in its design. Extremely pleasant to view. The Legally Speaking content was understandably one-sided. And perhaps a bit over the top in that regard. This is an extremely effective real-estate publication, overall. I really enjoyed the read as I went through the pages. It's a clear winner in this category.

SECOND PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
The storytelling components are really effective in the distinct publication. Strong photography and design. A good amount of local content.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
Nice publication. Good mix of content and attractive ads. Cover wasn't particularly strong as compared with others in the competition, but the inside page design was very nice. Nice use of photos throughout and better-than-average editorial content.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Really nice Christmas edition. The mistletoe piece was a great touch to the magazine. Top-end publication.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Genevieve Horsburgh
Another very attractive and well done magazine. Editorial content was good of bringing people who live there to life for readers. This is a high-end publication, to be sure.

BEST AUTOMOTIVE SPECIAL SECTION OR MAGAZINE

FIRST PLACE

Granville Sentinel, Granville
Jane Cosey
Interesting and helpful content covering a variety of automotive topics including service suggestions, driving tips, features buyers are looking for in a new vehicle and pandemic driving tips.

SECOND PLACE

Long Island Weekly, Mineola
Alex Nunez
Strong design, interesting cover story on the history of the Mustang. Great use of cover by monetizing it by running strip ad at bottom of page and packaging it with an inside full page from the same advertiser. Several new vehicle franchise ad sales, not always easy to get today.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
This section is absolutely amazing. The quality is incredible, as is the volume of ads and information. outstanding!

SECOND PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
I loved the layout and quality and relevance of the content of this edition! Great edition!

THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler, Matt Tracy and Donna Aceto
This section was very well done. the content and advertising were very cohesive and informative.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
High quality publication put together very well. The stories are interesting, and the ad content is very targeted.
Great job!

BEST SPECIAL SECTION - ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE

The Record-Review, Bedford
This newspaper team created a perfect template for other newspapers to follow when publishing graduation guides. With slick pagination and great photography, this piece is great.

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg
This breast cancer awareness special section is a well-crafted educational edition. It integrates original content with a finely-tuned design and great use of a unified color pallet.

THIRD PLACE

Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
First, if your goal were to make me hungry while reading this magazine, you succeeded. Packed full of great local recipes and original photographs, this piece took full advantage of running outside of newsprint. Also, the otters were adorable.

HONORABLE MENTION

Granville Sentinel, Granville
Jared Stamm and Jane Cosey
This local salute was well designed and provided a strong showcase of local figures. It provided a solid blend of original content that was easily digestible (the sidebar rosters were particularly eye-popping) and advertising. The adherence to a color palette throughout was appreciated.

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Pierce Strudler

Very relevant topic especially during these COVID-19 times we're living in. Good headline. Good content. Good layout considering the amount of copy. Nice picture of the doctor so readers can relate. Adver-torial layout adds credibility.

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg
Amanda Reed

Subject content very timely due to the pan-demic. Copy somewhat changed as we pro-gressed through the various stages of the pandemic. Layout/design consistent with the exception of the traffic light ad. Off base from a branding standpoint. Messaging was one of caring and not trying to sell you something.

THIRD PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder,
Cold Spring
Sheila Smith Cunningham

The full color ads are very nice. The third ad is inconsistent and lacks branding with the other two.

HONORABLE MENTION

Putnam County News & Recorder,
Cold Spring
Sheila Smith Cunningham

Good use of white space. Clever headlines. Photos could have been better. Layout in-consistent.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Christina Scotti

Beautiful. Excellent photos. Excellent com-position. Excellent understated seasonal artwork. This is good.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Overall good. Good color choices. Nice lay-out.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Genevieve Horsburgh

Nice overall. The photo and color scheme make the ad pop. Great use of dimension and visual layering.

HONORABLE MENTION

Amherst Bee, Williamsville

Teresa Eastman and Jackie Szarafin

Good balance, good use of space. Good use of seasonal artwork without being gaudy.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn

George Fiala

I appreciate the whimsy of the business itself carried through the ads.

BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Fire Island News, Bay Shore

Joey Macellaro

Simple message. Great use of white space. Cool logo. Makes me want to go and have a drink!

SECOND PLACE

Sea Cliff Glen Head Herald Gazette,
Glen Cove

Mona Waitzman

Glen Cove Creek is the place to go. Ten things to see and do. Good, clean layout despite all of the copy. Well organized. Copy says what they are, the map says where they are. Clearly lets you know that it's worth the trip.

THIRD PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg

Amanda Reed

Tells you all you need to know especially that they've been voted the "Best Pizza." They also have breakfast, lunch and dinner so they're not a one trick pony. Love the red and white on black. Great branding ad.

HONORABLE MENTION

Seaford Herald Citizen, Seaford

Jeffrey Negrin

This makes me hungry! Hot dogs and sau-sage on the grill. Great photo! Strong copy, well organized. Lists all they have to offer. Contains all the appropriate information you need. Nice logo.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn
George Fiala

Clean, great design, great visual. Nice testi-monial at bottom. Draws you in.

SECOND PLACE

Mahopac News, Mahopac

*Tabitha Pearson Marshall
and Brett Freeman*

Clever idea. Useful to the reader in more ways than one. Tells you what they do AND more.

THIRD PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park

Yvonne Farley

Use of social media visual very strong. Sim-ple copy. Colorful background. You know what they do and now you know who they are.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-
Eastern Edition, Southampton

Beautiful home! Copy tells you all about it and also what the broker specializes in. Love the fox...especially with the mask.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

It is very rare that you see visually stunning ads that are not just branding but also in-corporate a call to action. This ad draws the viewer in, presents the client's product in the best way possible while still selling something.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Genevieve Horsburgh

This ad does a great job of taking a lot of copy and making it something the viewer wants to read and learn more about, mak-ing the campaign successful in the goal.

THIRD PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville

Teresa Eastman and Jackie Szarafin

This entry scored high on originality and impact. It is a great recruitment ad and in-cluding a photo of the employees smiling, the food and all of the information about the job is eye catching and makes you want to send in an application.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Genevieve Horsburgh

A really great ad that represents the client and their call for admissions in an inviting way.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Matt Sourwine

This ad is a great example of strong design, from the photo and headline to the images of the employees to even being able to incorporate a call to action and not coming off insensitive.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union, Albany

Jeremy Schoonmaker

This ad is a great representation of this business - it shows all different people and the layout takes a lot of copy and makes it easy to digest.

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Matt Sourwine

Visually striking layout and imagery

HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse

Lea Gonyea

Great idea for engaging the readers and incorporating the brand and product into the contest.

HONORABLE MENTION

Times Union, Albany

Jill Ginac

Stunning ad, love the use of active seniors in love.

BEST SMALL SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Cornwall Local, Cornwall

Jay LeRoy

The Cornwall Coffee Co. ad is very noticeable, easily standing out in the paper with bright bold colors and purposely pairing a holiday message, which is always a nice touch. The ad isn't simply an artistic accomplishment alone though, as key characteristics are all included, such as: address, hours of operation, phone, email, and social contact info. Bravo!

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg

Amanda Reed

Shrek The Musical blends familiar imagery with a unique color scheme that is very easy to notice and catches the eye. Showtimes and contact info are clearly stated, as are ticket prices. A nice touch is a special offer for a family discount. Well done!

THIRD PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring

Sheila Smith Cunningham

The ad for A&E Cabinets strikes a perfect balance of image, text, and white space. The image of the kitchen will most certainly grab the reader's attention, but the text is needed to iron out all the service lines and capabilities. Store details and contact info finish off a nicely put-together ad. Excellent work!

HONORABLE MENTION

Putnam County Courier, Carmel

Sheila Smith Cunningham

The Managed Technologies of NY ad is a nice example of a service industry message that does it right. Facts and details drive the message and speak to the nuances of a delicate business. Images here to match the content could have been a challenge, but came across seamlessly. Nicely executed!

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon

Petra Duffy

The ad for Superior Building Spring Cleaning is a great example of just a clean-cut and appealing approach to ad design. The images match the content and catch the readers attention, while the text outlines all the necessary info in an easy-to-read format. The layout here is perfectly balanced. Excellent work!

SECOND PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park

Yvonne Farley

If readers were seeing the Village Perk ad in the morning, I'm certain they got some customers from this one. The food images are certainly the hook here, but the text is informative, and a special offer always helps to drive action. A good balance of colors and layout make this ad eye-catching and an all around success. Delightful!

THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton

The ad for Southampton Rotary Spaghetti Dinner blends lots of information with the right match of artwork. The imagery of the restaurant itself along with the food is a nice balance. The text covers a lot of details without appearing to be too wordy and doesn't require the reader to do anymore investigation. Nicely done!

HONORABLE MENTION

The Somers Record, Somers

Christina Rose

This Mancini ad speaks to the simplicity of their offering. The image catches the readers attention and resonates with the holiday season, tugging at the emotions of a house becoming a home. Not much further is needed as far as text goes, and the pertinent contact info is provided. A great example of less is more!

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The West Side Spirit, New York

Adam Emmerich

The ad for Gary Null Whole Foods is an all-around success. Bright colors full of images that tell the whole story are a great start, and their uneven edges that frame the text are a very nice touch. The copy is to the point, the logo is obvious, and all the necessary contact info is included. To top it off, the various special deals as a call-to-action polish it off. Kudos to the winner!

SECOND PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville

Teresa Eastman and Jackie Szarafin

What a fun ad! The play on words here is sure to get readers attention. The spacing is nicely done and the variety of fonts within the text help to separate the various topics for easy reading. All the contact info is provided, and inclusion of a social media page is a good component as well. Excellent!

THIRD PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Christina Scotti, Adam Emmerich and Olivia Cosgrove

This response is for two advertisers within this entry:

Third Place place: Crystal Pools delivers a fun ad that checks all the boxes. The use of bold colors and a timely headline are sure to catch the reader's eye. From there the message and services are clear and the contact info is clearly included. Nice work!

Honorable mention: The ad for Corwin Florist captures everything that is required from a quality piece of copy. The images match the content and are balanced evenly with the text. The variety of fonts separate the different points well and yet all sync together. Well done!

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Kayleigh Tarbet

Cannon Pools & Spas found a winner with this ad. There is a lot of info included in this copy, but it is spaced nicely to avoid feeling "busy." The bright colors and images are sure to grab the reader's attention and showing price-points provides a valuable call to action. It gives the feeling of a vacation on the page, which is exactly what I imagine they were striving for. Bravo!

SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Matt Sourwine

The ad for Alzheimer's Association paints a powerful message with both language and visuals that blend together to make for a very appealing finished product. Excellent work!

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Lea Gonyea

This ad for Stanley Law strikes a nice balance of images, text, and contact details. The bold colors are sure to stand out on the page, and the images tie-in seamlessly with content. The text tells a story without being too wordy, and all contact info is easy to follow. Nice job!

BEST MULTI-ADVERTISER PAGES

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Somers Record, Somers
Tabitha Pearson Marshall,

Gabrielle Bilik and Christina Rose
This paper tapped into the situation facing many students worldwide and provided a solution to celebrate their achievement, support the local parent-teacher organization and bring in revenue during a pandemic. The ads showcased each of the students' personalities, created pages that would engage readers, and, I'm sure, made many parents proud. This piece will have a long life in many homes.

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg
Amanda Reed

An Easter contest idea that engages readers promotes advertisers and provides a subscription prize is a win for everyone involved. The design team did a great job with the colorful two-page spread, and the advertising team was successful in selling numerous sponsorships.

THIRD PLACE

Wallkill Valley Times, Newburgh
Regina Maher

At first glance, the Wallkill Valley Times "It's Lucky to Shop Local" page looks like many other multi-advertiser pages, but the small things mark it as a step ahead. An opening header that clearly ties it to the holiday while also promoting a message. A short inclusion of editorial content to offer some diversity and keep readers moving forward. A closing message that encourages interaction with the listed advertisers. All around, the creative and sales team has created a solid example of a multi-advertiser page.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Meghan McBreairty

The ABC's of Halloween Safety is an innovative way to incorporate local businesses into a holiday promotion. The design team showed creativity through content, and the ad team did a great job filling the spots. Kudos on lining up the names and tips when possible.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Matt Sourwine and Katie Wegerski
Supported by cute imagery, this campaign is deceptive in the value it provides to its supporters. The appearance on the page is just the beginning of the value it offers; as the promotion continues and advertisers appear in community windows, their logos will reach an audience far beyond the original readership.

SECOND PLACE

The Citizen, Auburn
Lee Cunningham

A delightful holiday promotion that features multiple advertisers built around a universally loved symbol of the season. In future promotions, consider increasing the bulb size to keep the advertisers' logos contained within.

BEST HOUSE AD/AD CAMPAIGN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Pierce Strudler

Outstanding ad featuring students, who are the future of our newspapers.

SECOND PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park
Yvonne Farley

Love the puppy with goggles. Makes the ad really stand out on the message coming across to the readers for Winter Guide....very good use of artwork

THIRD PLACE

Putnam County Courier, Carmel
Sheila Smith Cunningham
Eye catching ad stands out on the page.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Spotlight, Delmar
Dave Abbott

HONORABLE MENTION

Wantagh Herald Citizen, Wantagh
Jeffrey Negrin

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Genevieve Horsburgh
Great usage of photo's featuring the different types of sculptures.

SECOND PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Very good promo ad for the classifieds.
Great usage of space and color. Really pops and attention getter for promoting the classifieds.

THIRD PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Holly Schiferle
Good usage of space gets directly to the point.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Chronicle, Goshen
Adam Emmerich

HONORABLE MENTION

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Petra Duffy

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Karen Sherwood
The ad campaign is as powerful as Syracuse basketball! Well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Lea Gonyea, Kayleigh Tarbet and Matt Sourwine
When you are trying to sell marketing services, it certainly helps to have an amazingly well executed campaign like this one to strut your stuff.

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Matt Sourwine and Lindsay Marlenga
Eye catching ads and direct to the point with the message.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Matt Sourwine, Lea Gonyea

HONORABLE MENTION

Times Union, Albany
Jill Ginac

INNOVATIVE AD PROJECT

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Kayleigh Tarbet
Great layout with spacing, color and photo's.

SECOND PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Great idea to get the readers to interact with newspapers and doing a contest.

THIRD PLACE

Daily Sentinel, Oneida
Frank Page
Love the idea using cartoon design.

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Brian Mitchell

HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Lea Gonyea

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE

The Garden City News, Garden City
This newspaper embraces color and spacing to make their classified section easy to read, a boon to both subscribers and advertisers.

SECOND PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
This newspaper has created a classified section that does not feel overbearing or overcrowded. With judicious use of space and bolded type, the section is easy to read.

THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Katey Dnistrian
This newspaper presents a traditional classified section filled with useful ads for the readers.

BLOOPER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Granville Sentinel, Granville
Julie Fedler and Renae McKittrick
Fun blooper REEL. It is difficult to make videos when working with friends and co-workers. This entry seemed to best meet the intention of the blooper of the year category.

SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Kayleigh Tarbet
Fun blooper reel.

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Fun Halloween photos.