And the Winners Are...

NEWSPAPERS OF THE YEAR
The Highlands Current
The Times Union

STUART C. DORMAN AWARD
Editorial Excellence
Times Union

JOHN J. EVANS AWARD
Advertising Excellence
The Post-Standard

2022 WRITER OF THE YEAR
Jeff Coltin
City & State

2022 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR
Christopher Gangemi
The East Hampton Star

2022 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR
Mike MacAdam
The Daily Gazette

2022 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
Dean Moses
amNew York Metro

PAST PRESIDENTS’ AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE
The Suffolk Times — First Place, Division 1
The Smithtown News — First Place, Division 2

BEST FRONT PAGE
Colonie Spotlight — First Place, Division 1
The East Hampton Press — First Place, Division 2

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE
Williston Times — First Place
The Riverdale Press — Second Place
The Village Sun — Third Place

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE
The Suffolk Times — First Place
The Highlands Current — Second Place
Queens Chronicle — Third Place
The Ithaca Voice — Honorable Mention

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE
Roslyn Times — First Place
Queens Chronicle — Second Place
The Suffolk Times — Third Place
Shelter Island Reporter — Honorable Mention

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE
The Highlands Current — First Place
Sullivan County Democrat — Second Place
Nassau Herald — Third Place
About the 2022 Better Newspaper Contest …

154 newspapers submitted 2,657 entries.

Participating newspapers competed for awards in 70 categories, and for Newspaper of the Year, the Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence and the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence.

380 awards were presented during NYPA's Spring Conference March 31 and April 1, 2023.

The entries were judged by members of the Colorado Press Association.

The winners were determined based on the following point system:

EACH First Place AWARD........................................20 points
EACH Second Place AWARD...................................10 points
EACH Third Place AWARD......................................5 points

The Top Five — Group or Chain Newspapers

TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

Express News Group — 430 points
The Express News Group earned 430 total contest points including 14 (yes, 14!) first-place awards, 9 second-place awards, and 12 third-place awards. First place awards included Best Front Page, Best News Website, Best Solutions Journalism Project and Best Feature Story.

Schneps Media Group — 250 points
The Schneps Media Group earned 250 total contest points including 4 first place awards, 12 second place awards, and 10 third place awards. First place awards included Photographer of the Year, Best Spot News Coverage, Best Feature Story and Best Media Kit.

Times Review Newspapers — 230 points
The Times Review Newspapers earned 230 total contest points including 7 first place awards, 6 second place awards, and 6 third place awards. First place awards included Past Presidents' Award for General Excellence, Photographic Excellence, and Best Spot News Coverage.

Johnson Newspaper Group — 145 points
The Johnson Newspaper Group earned 145 total contest points including 2 first-place awards, 7 second-place awards and 7 third-place awards. First-place awards included Best Spot News Photo and Best Small Space Ad.

Gannett — 135 points
Gannett earned 135 total contest points – four first-place awards, four second-place awards, and 3 third-place awards.

First-place awards include Coverage of Education, Coverage of Health, Health Care and Science, News Story and Feature Story.

The Top Five — Single Flag Newspapers

TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

The Highlands Current — 260 points
Times Union — 260 points
East Hampton Press — 195 points
The Suffolk Times — 180 points
The Southampton Press – Eastern Edition — 135 points

The Top Five — Total Editorial Points

Times Union — 210 points
The Highlands Current — 185 points
East Hampton Press — 140 points
The Journal News — 125 points
The Suffolk Times — 110 points

The Top Five — Total Advertising Points

The Post Standard — 70 points
Williston Times — 50 points
The Highlands Current — 50 points
East Hampton Press — 45 points
The Scarsdale Inquirer — 30 points
The Suffolk Times — 30 points
Most competitive categories ...

CATEGORY 32—FEATURE STORY

Congratulations to the first-place winners in the most competitive category in the contest!
Division 1: Victor Feldman, Red Hook Daily Catch
Division 2: Sarah Wolpoff, Westmore News
Division 3: Robbie Sequeira, Bronx Times Reporter and Bronx Times
Division 4: Michelle Trauring, The East Hampton Press
Division 5: Carly Newton, Press-Republican
Division 6: Matthew Korfhage, Journal News

CATEGORY 31—NEWS STORY

The quality of the entries in this category was outstanding — congratulations to:
Division 1: Lincoln Anderson, Village Sun
Division 2: Jeff Simms, The Highlands Current
Division 3: Christine Sampson, The East Hampton Star
Division 4: Matthew Korfhage, Journal News

CATEGORY 40—FEATURE PHOTO(S)

The judges had a particularly difficult time with this competitive category — congratulations to:
Division 1: Ryan Sweezey, Suffolk County News
Division 2: Ron Esposito, The Southampton Press-Eastern
Division 3: Jim Franco, Times Union

CATEGORY 33—BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

Many fine examples of excellent research and writing — congratulations to:
Division 1: Chip Rowe, Leonard Sparks, The Highlands Current
Division 2: Carly Newton, Press-Republican

CATEGORY 41—SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

Catching the right image at the right time — congratulations to:
Division 1: Ron Esposito, The Southampton Press-Western
Division 2: Jeremy Garretson, The Suffolk Times
Division 3: Peggy Gallery, The Smithtown News

CATEGORY 36—BEST COLUMN

Providing perspective... making the reader think, understand and care — congratulations to:
Division 1: Andy Flynn, Lake Placid News
Division 2: Daniel Dunaief, Village Times Herald
Division 3: Casey Seiler, Times Union

CATEGORY 30—SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

Great coverage of a single news event — congratulations to:
Division 1: Douglas Cunningham, Putnam County News & Recorder
Division 2: Tim Gannon, Tara Smith, Joe Werkmeister, Steve Wick, The Suffolk Times
Division 3: Robert Pozarycki, Dean Moses, amNewYork Metro
Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2022
There were 16 entries in this category

**FIRST PLACE: **
**CHRISTOPHER GANGEMI
THE EAST HAMPTON STAR**

Chris is a reporter and the author of the “On the Wing” bird column for The East Hampton Star. After graduating from Columbia University and barely surviving a close brush with capitalism, he raised a family in Sag Harbor, where he has lived full-time for over two decades. In his role at the Star, which is his first job in journalism, he covers village government, regulatory boards, environmental topics, and community features. When he's not working, he sometimes enjoys hiking, birding, playing “Wingspan” with his two daughters, his cats, and fretting about the future. He hates bamboo, Range Rovers, and fully-cleared building lots.

The judges said: “In his entry note this rookie reporter states that he ‘barely survived a close brush with capitalism,’ moving into journalism as a midlife career change. Perhaps his trajectory gives unfair advantage, but he is the winner of this “rookie reporter of the year competition.” His writing is superb, even elegant. His reporter’s curiosity leads him to finely-crafted narratives on such diverse topics as horse farriers (A farrier learns that the first step to shoeing a horse is applying fly spray) to the avid passion of metal detectorists, as in one who searches for history with a metal detector. A distant cry for help overheard at a beachfront condo dinner party turns into a dramatic rescue narrative. A complaint against a volunteer EMT becomes a even-handed exposition on the deep rift between the volunteers of the Village Ambulance Association and the more recently arrived paid EMTs. For a “rookie,” his stories pull you right through. You can’t stop reading. The world of commerce’s loss is journalism’s gain. Nice work, Chris.”

**SECOND PLACE: **
**SAHALIE DONALDSON, CITY & STATE**

Sahalie Donaldson is a reporter at City & State New York where she primarily covers New York City politics and community features. When she’s not working, she also heads the First Read, a daily political newsletter with over 30,000 subscribers. Donaldson is a 2021 graduate of the City University of New York’s Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism and recently has done extensive coverage on the governor’s legislative priorities heading into her second term. As a political reporter, Sahalie enjoys building community relationships for thorough reporting and writing stories that offer deep analysis for readers. Sahalie's biggest career motivation is to continue to serve her fellow New Yorkers by reporting on the politics and policy issues that directly impact their everyday lives.

The judges said: “Sahalie Donaldson has social justice instincts, a nose for news, and a captivating writing style that includes a very sense of humor and irony. The proposed new Orchard Beach tent shelter for asylum seekers arriving in the city by the thousands: Uh, a problem. Orchard Beach is prone to flooding, and the Atlantic hurricane season is picking up steam. The entire area is designated as a “special flood hazard area” on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s flood map, and is entirely within the city’s “Zone 1” hurricane evacuation designation. Oops. Also, a great story idea to examine the Second Chance Democratic Club and the voting rights of felons. Little known factoid: 90 percent of inmates in Rikers are eligible to vote, but of those approximately 5,000 potential voters only about 300 actually pulled it off. All of Sahalie’s story entries are well reported and nicely written. This is a woman with a career in front of her, and she is certainly worthy of recognition in the New York Press Association’s rookie reporter of the year competition.”

**THIRD PLACE: **
**SHANTEL DEstra, CITY & STATE**

Shantel Destra is a native New Yorker with a passion for journalism and politics. In May 2022, Shantel graduated from Columbia Journalism School where she served as co-president of the school’s National Association of Black Journalists. After graduation, Shantel was selected to be a fellow in Politico’s Summer Journalism Institute and interned with The City. Since September 2022, Shantel has worked as a state politics reporter with City & State. Shantel has focused on the politics and policies affecting New York. Shantel has reported extensively on 2022 midterm elections – including the competitive gubernatorial race, the campaign promises of then-candidate Rep. Lee Zeldin and an analysis of the competitive state Senate and Assembly races. Shantel has also reported a long-form piece examining the governor’s relationship with Puerto Rico and most recently has done extensive coverage on the governor’s legislative priorities heading into her second term. As a political reporter, Shantel enjoys building community relationships for thorough reporting and writing stories that offer deep analysis for readers. Shantel's biggest career motivation is to continue to serve her fellow New Yorkers by reporting on the politics and policy issues that directly impact their everyday lives.

The judges said: “Shantel Destra’s work on the politics beat for City and State is sparked by great reporting and sophisticated writing. Her examination of Gov. Kathy Hochul’s complicated attempts to curry favor with Puerto Rico, and thus the many thousands of Puerto Rican voters in New York, is an example of both. Likewise is her story on the “long tail” of Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, who, alas, could not get himself reelected. Erudite and professional, as with the other winners of rookie reporter recognition -- and others in this excellent category competition that didn’t place -- Destra brings reassurance that the future of journalism is in good hands. Thank you, Shantel."
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PAST PRESIDENTS’ AWARD
Division 1
First Place
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Good, but very formulaic. Sections were nice breakouts, but everything was laid out so similarly it all sort of blurred together. All the papers in this group felt exactly the same.

Second Place
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton

Excellent, wide range of LGBTQ+ issues, from politics to housing to food to community. Excellent all on theme, but diverse within that theme, and well done. The front pages were strong, the photos and ads finish a lot inside. Got tinged for not having sports, but a very good publication that doesn’t need to include them if it wasn’t part of the judging criteria.

Honorable Mention
Gay City News, New York

The News’ bolded in an gutter in the middle was jarring, and having ‘the News’ bolded in an article was questionable, maybe just italicize it next time. No real complaints otherwise, all the photos were excellent.

THIRD PLACE
The Highlands Current, Philipston

An excellent paper. It has excellent community engagement, and lots of personal stories and pieces. The graphic design was nice, the multiple pages spreads on the parade and Black History were very interesting.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Long Beach Herald, Long Beach

Overall pretty good, the classified layout was very nice, as was the emphasis on community and culture. Some of the news layout choices made it hard to follow where the story was flowing. The pictures and art were very good. Got dinged for the lack of sports, but otherwise very enjoyable.

PAST PRESIDENTS’ AWARD
Division 2
First Place
The Smithtown News, Smithtown

Fantastic! Very clean, neatly laid out, easy to follow. Clear section distinctions. Having a headline bleed across two pages with the gutter in the middle was jarring, and having ‘the News’ bolded in an article was questionable, maybe just italicize it next time. No real complaints otherwise, all the photos were excellent.

Second Place
The Northport Observer, Northport

Fantastic! Very clean, neatly laid out, easy to follow. Clear section distinctions. This was done by the same group as did Smithtown’s paper and I liked both very much, it was a tossup as to who got first. Absolute kudos to the team.

THIRD PLACE
The Riverdale Press, Riverdale

We liked this paper a lot, and if we lived in the area, would be loyal subscribers. For the most part, the layout could do with a little more white space and bigger headlines, maybe with some different fonts, it wasn’t always clear if we were looking at a new headline or just a subhead. The ads did good, there was absolutely excellent community engagement. Scored low on sports due to lack of coverage, would have rated much higher if that wasn’t judging criteria.

HONORABLE MENTION
Gay City News, New York

Excellent, wide range of LGBTQ+ issues, from politics to housing to food to community. Excellent all on theme, but diverse within that theme, and well done. The front pages were strong, the photos and ads finish a lot inside. Got tinged for not having sports, but a very good publication that doesn’t need to include them if it wasn’t part of the judging criteria.

ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR
First Place
The East Hampton Star, East Hampton

Christopher Gangemi

In his entry note this rookie reporter states that he “barely survived a close brush with capitalism,” moving into journalism as a midlife career change. Perhaps his trajectory gives unfair advantage, but he is the winner of this “rookie reporter of the year competition.” His writing is superb, even elegant. His reporter’s curiosity leads him to finely-crafted narratives on such diverse topics as horse furriers – “A furrier learns that the first step to shoeing a horse is applying fly spray” – to the advancement of metal detectortists, as in one who searches for history with a metal detector. A distant cry for help heard over at a beachfront condo dinner party turns into a dramatic rescue narrative. A complaint against a volunteer EMT becomes a even-handed exposition on the deep rift between the volunteers of the Village Ambulance Association and the more recently arrived paid EMTs. For a “rookie,” his stories pull you right through. You can’t stop reading. The world of commerce’s loss is journalism’s gain. Nice work, Chris.

Second Place
City & State, New York

Sahalie Donaldson

Sahalie Donaldson has social justice instincts, a nose for news, and a captivating writing style that includes a wry sense of humor and irony. The proposed new Orchard Beach shelter for those seeking shelter in the city by the thousands: Uh, a problem. Orchard Beach is prone to flooding, and the Atlantic hurricane season is picking up steam. The entire area is designated as a “special flood hazard area” on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s flood map, and is entirely within the city’s “Zone 1” hurricane evacuation designation. Oops. Also, a great story idea to examine the Second Chance Democratic Club and the voting rights of felons. Latino faction: 90 percent of inmates in Rikers are eligible to vote, but of those approximately 3,000 potential voters only about 200 actually pulled it off. All of Sahalie’s story entries are well reported and nicely written. This is a woman with a career in front of her, as she is certainly worthy of recognition in the New York Press Association’s rookie reporter of the year competition.

THIRD PLACE
City & State, New York

Shantel Destra

Shantel Destra’s work on the politics beat for City and State is sparked by great reporting and sophisticated writing. Her examination of Gov. Kathy Hochul’s complicated attempts to curry favor with Puerto Rico, and thus the many thousands of Puerto Rican votes in New York, is a remarkable piece of both. Likewise is her story on the “long fall” of Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, who, alas, could not get himself reelected. Erudite and professional, as with the other work of rookie reporter recognition – and others in this excellent category competition that didn’t place – Destra brings reassurance that the future of journalism is in good hands. Thank you, Shantel.

WRITER OF THE YEAR
First Place
City & State, New York

Jeff Coltin

We sometimes see great reporting that doesn’t lead to great writing. But we never see great writing that isn’t underpinned by great reporting. In the work of this reporter, we see great writing riding on the shoulders of great reporting. With inside knowledge, quiet authority, and a bemused eye for the strengths and frailties of his subjects, this reporter gives his readers the impression they’ve known these political characters all along. Or, if not, they do now. Mayor Eric Adams walks with each virtually anyone, and this does mean anyone. Gang members who have murdered people. Anti-vacciners. Disgraced former Gov. Andrew Cuomo. And Adams gives a very spirited defense of why that is. In his wonderful profile of Ingrid Lewis-Martin, the so-called “lioness of City Hall,” and Adams’ closest adviser, he quotes her as saying, “Each person say she’s not this or she’s a bitch,” referring to herself, “you should ask them: What did you do to her?” Then there’s the BLM poster on her office wall: “No weapon formed against me shall prosper,” Isaiah 54:17. Tough as nails, and in this reporter’s telling, eminently admirable.

You not only learn while reading his stories, it’s a real pleasure to do so. That all city halls were as well reported.

Second Place
The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn

Kirstyn Brendlen

The diversity of work in this entry is worthy of note. A nursing home death leads to examination of the shoddily operated home and the sleazy real estate profiteers who brought that about. Contrast that with a lovely feature about Francesca Kaczynski, a 5-month-old little girl who died of brain cancer and a small magnolia tree planted in Prospect Park in her honor, and the loyalty of the child’s father who visits and brings flowers every day. Her takeout on the closure of Park Church, with more than a little push from the Lutheran Synod of New York, shows how a venerable community institution, and the people who comprise that community, are more or less backhanded away. Oh, and did you know that polio has been found in Brooklyn wastewater? Unvaccinated Brooklynites do. Congratulations on this wide-ranging, highly readable work.

Third Place
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton

Michael Wright

Reading Michael Wright’s work for the East Hampton Press is to gain intimate knowledge of the community he covers. One almost starts feeling like a native. There’s the gripping drama of police officer Grace Peterson delivering a baby on the front porch of the mother’s home, and then saving the child by unwarpping the umbilical cord from her neck; a knowledgeable account of the total collapse (thanks to pesticide spraying in the area of a West Nile outbreak) and possible resurgence of the Long Island Lobster fishery; a 10-year retrospective on Hurricane Sandy and an accounting of the $4.9 billion in infrastructure spending to brace against the next super storm; a thoroughly interesting look at the restoration of Montauk lighthouse, originally constructed during George Washington’s era, and the last flight of popular local pilot and aviation leader, doomed by the fact that a single nut was missing from one his wing struts bolts. I should also mention that on at least three of days for which Michael entered stories, he also wrote another bylined story on page 1. That’s a lot of work done well.
Writer of the Year, 2022
There were 38 entries in this category

FIRST PLACE:

JEFF COLTIN, CITY & STATE

Jeff Coltin is the City Hall bureau chief for City & State New York, where he started working as an intern in 2014. He launched the Campaign Confidential newsletter and has focused on city politics and elections. He started covering news in New York City months after starting at Fordham University in the Bronx. Jeff was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, and now lives on the Upper West Side.

The judges said: “We sometimes see great reporting that doesn’t lead to great writing. But we never see great writing that isn’t underpinned by great reporting. In the work of this reporter, we see great writing riding on the shoulders of great reporting. With inside knowledge, quiet authority, and a bemused eye for the strengths and frailties of his subjects, this reporter gives his readers the impression they’ve known these political characters all along. Or, if not, they do now. Mayor Eric Adams will meet with virtually anyone, and this does mean anyone. Gang members who have murdered people. Anti-vaxxers. Disgraced former Gov. Andrew Cuomo. And Adams gives a very spirited defense of why that is. In his wonderful profile of Ingrid Lewis-Martin, the so-called “lioness of City Hall,” and Adams’ closest adviser, he quotes her as saying, “When people say she’s nasty, or she’s a bitch,” referring to herself, “you should ask them: What did you do to her?” Then there’s the Bible verse poster on her office wall: “No weapon formed against me shall prosper,” Isaiah 54:17. Tough as nails, and in this reporter’s telling, eminently admirable. You not only learn while reading his stories, it’s a real pleasure to do so. That all city halls were as well reported.”

SECOND PLACE:

KIRSTYN BRENDLEN, THE BROOKLYN PAPER

A New Jersey native and enthusiast, Kirstyn covers northern Brooklyn for The Brooklyn Paper, from Greenpoint to Gowanus. Named one of NYPA’s Writers of the Year in 2021, Kirstyn has continued to hone her craft at Brooklyn Paper, where she has excelled to digital/deputy editor. When she’s not breaking news no one else has, or diving deep into the most important stories, she’s helping Brooklyn Paper’s EIC push stories out — sharpening her skills in the process.

The judges said: “The diversity of work in this entry is worthy of note. A nursing home death leads to examination of the shoddy operation of the home and the sleazeball real estate profiteers who brought that about. Contrast that with a lovely feature about Francesca Kaczynski, a 9-month-old little girl who died of brain cancer and a small magnolia tree planted in Prospect Park in her honor, and the loyalty of the child’s father who visits and brings flower every day. Her takeout on the closure of Park Church, with more than a little push from the Lutheran Synod of New York, shows how a venerable community institution, and the people who comprise that community, are more or less backhanded away. Oh, and did you know that polio has been found in Brooklyn wastewater? Unvaccinated Brooklynites do. Congratulations on this wide-ranging, highly readable work.”

THIRD PLACE:

MICHAEL WRIGHT, THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

The judges said: “Reading Michael Wright’s work for The East Hampton Press is to gain intimate knowledge of the community he covers. One almost starts feeling like a native. There’s the gripping drama of police officer Grace Peterson delivering a baby on the front porch of the mother’s home, and then saving the child by unwrapping the umbilical cord from her neck; a knowledgeable account of the total collapse (thanks to pesticide spraying in the time of a West Nile outbreak) and possible resurgence of the Long Island lobster fishery; a 10-year retrospective on Hurricane Sandy and an accounting of the $4.9 billion in infrastructure spending to brace against the next super storm; a thoroughly interesting look at the restoration of Montauk lighthouse, originally constructed during George Washington’s era, and the last flight of popular local pilot and aviation leader, doomed by the fact that a single nut was missing from one his wing strut bolts. I should also mention that on at least three of days for which Michael entered stories, he also wrote every other bylined story on page 1. That’s a lot of work done well.”
Excellence Awards

Photographer of the Year

First Place

Evan New York Metro, New York
Dean Moses

This entry stood well above the rest with incredible strong storytelling images. The homeless topic is not an easy place to approach. Yet the photographer was able to capture the frozen moments in time that tell the story for the community to better understand itself. Looking through the subjects in the photos, you can tell the photographer was compassionate about the community, the subjects, and human life. They opened their doors to this photographer and let him into their difficult worlds. No brainer for the Photographer of the Year in this year.

Second Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON
Caitlin MacAdam

“The New Faces of Title IX” opens with a great story that perfectly captures where women’s sports used to be, and how far they’ve come. Great showing and not telling. I also loved the feature on the open water swimmer. Again, letting the subject carry the story. And the story on the middle school girl making the varsity team was pitch-perfect. I wanted some of these sentences to be tighter, making the story and the storytelling were excellent... and I cared about these subjects after getting introduced to them.

Third Place

THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER, NORTHPORT
David Ambro

Great lede on the Matthew Marlow piece. Drew me right in. Didn’t love the “Allen Iverson” eat your heart out” lede in the LAX story... just a little cliche. But the storytelling and structure of all of these pieces are solid and bear the mark of a longtime storyteller working at his craft.

Honorable Mention

THE SCARSDALE INQUIRER, SCARSDALE
Todd Sills

Eddie C story was great. Lede could’ve been tighter... don’t need to explain what KEAN is in a secondary clause... but overall the storytelling here kept me reading.

Honorable Mention

DAILY GAZETTE, SCHENECTADY
Adam Shindler

Enjoyed the report on the local woman who’d gone into pro wrestling. Thought the lede could use some work, but the overall structure of the story and the storytelling were solid.

Best Front Page

Division 2

First Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON

These pages are clean, an easily defined centerpiece and good use of headline fonts. They stand out as some of my favorite designs.

Second Place

WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES, WATERTOWN
Ellis Giacomelli

The designer was willing to take chances. A good usage of art, color and graphics to add to the package.

Third Place

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS- EASTERN EDITION, SOUTHAMPTON

Front page has all the right elements - great flag (artwork terrific!), clean layout, useful hierarchy, large photos, great heds - everything the reader needs.

Best Editorial Page

First Place

WILLISTON TIMES, WILLISTON PARK
Smart, literary and an overall fun read. Great mix of ops and materials.

Second Place

THE RIVERDALE PRESS, RIVERDALE

Great mix of provocative topics and compelling house edits. Pages are a pleasure to peruse with the blend of graphics, toms and type. Overall solid and consistent work.

Third Place

THE VILLAGE SUN, NEW YORK

Easy to jump into opinions all over these pages. Perfect sprinkle of ads and graphical elements - great artwork (artwork terrific!), clean layout, useful hierarchy, large photos, great heds - everything the reader needs.

Photographic Excellence

First Place

THE SUFFOLK TIMES, MATITUCK

Really excellent, especially in the sports photos department. Those pages were brilliantly done. I also loved the framing of the hands playing drums.

Second Place

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT, PHILIPSTOWN

Great mix of provocative topics and compelling house edits. Pages are a pleasure to peruse with the blend of graphics, toms and type. Overall solid and consistent work.

Third Place

THE NEW YORK METRO, NEW YORK
Luis Matos and Robert Pozarzycki

The layout pops with its usage of colors. It’s easy to grab the readers’ attention.

Honorable Mention

THE BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND BRONX TIMES, BRONX
Mauro Deluca, Christian Falcone

These designs have some punch to them. The photo and headline match up quite well.

Third Place

THE ITHACA VOICE, ITHACA
Casey Brown

These are really amazing photos. I think the photographer is very talented. I thought the photos were great.

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

First Place

THE SUFFOLK TIMES, MATITUCK
Maria Gennaro, Lauren Sisson

Strong, clean newspaper. Not much in lifestyle/feature/sports which hurt the score, but otherwise very pleasant to look over.

Honorable Mention

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER, SHELTER ISLAND
Ambrose Clancy

The front page and photos and graphics were reasonably well done, but didn’t grab attention. The editorial page was nicely done, very clean layout inside.

Advertising Excellence

First Place

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT, PHILIPSTOWN
Michele Gedney

I am totally impressed with the original ad content. The quality and layout & design are first rate, as is the copywriting.

Second Place

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT, EAST HAMPTON

This newspaper is first rate in ad design and page layout. Originality and quality of copywriting are also to be commended.

Third Place

NASSAU HERALD, LAWRENCE

I thoroughly enjoyed the ads in this newspaper. Ad layout & originality are of premium quality. Quality of copywriting is top notch, as well.

Sports Writer of the Year

First Place

DAILY GAZETTE, SCHENECTADY
Mike MacAdam

Great writing. Loved the feature on Parcells. That fire to win never wanes. “Byrd deserves better” also contains some great storytelling, but I wanted the column to arrive at its point quicker — and save the sermonizing on the Bills’ current success until later in the column. The story about the Mullens also pulled me in and made me want to know more. Warm language and easy reading.

Second Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON

Callin MacAdam

“The New Faces of Title IX opens with a great story that perfectly captures where women’s sports used to be, and how far they’ve come. Great showing and not telling. I also loved the feature on the open water swimmer. Again, letting the subject carry the story. And the story on the middle school girl making the varsity team was pitch-perfect. I wanted some of these sentences to be tighter, but overall, the storytelling was excellent... and I cared about these subjects after getting introduced to them.

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THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER, NORTHPORT

David Ambro

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Todd Sills

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DAILY GAZETTE, SCHENECTADY

Adam Shindler

Enjoyed the report on the local woman who’d gone into pro wrestling. Thought the lede could use some work, but the overall structure of the story and the storytelling were solid.
FIRST PLACE:
MIKE MACADAM,
THE DAILY GAZETTE

Mike has worked in The Daily Gazette sports department since 1987, serving as a columnist, copy editor and beat writer for Siena basketball, Union College hockey and a variety of minor-league pro teams. His primary beat responsibility currently is Thoroughbred horse racing. Prior to coming to The Gazette, he worked for a year in the Troy Record sports department.

The judges said: “Great writing. Loved the feature on Parcells. That fire to win never wanes. “Byrd deserves better from the Bills” also contains some great storytelling, but I wanted the column to arrive at its point quicker — and save the sermonizing on the Bills’ current success until later in the column. The story about the Mullens also pulled me in and made me want to know more. Warm language and easy reading.”

SECOND PLACE:
CAILIN RILEY,
THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

Cailin Riley has worked for the Express News Group since 2004. For many years, she was the sports editor for The Southampton Press, winning NYPAs’s Sportswriter of the Year Award three times, first in 2012. She finished third in that category in 2021. She became a features writer and editor for The Southampton Press in 2017, contributing profiles, magazine features, and other long-form stories for every section of the paper, including sports, news, and arts, while also editing feature stories written by other news reporters. In April of 2019, she left the Express to become a freelance writer, contributing regularly for The Southampton Press, the Sag Harbor Express, and the Express Magazine, as well as for the Times Review News Group, which publishes the Riverhead News Review, the Suffolk Times, Northforker.com, and Northforker Magazine. Her work was also published on the national parenting website, romper.com, which is published by Bustle Digital Group. She returned to a role as a full-time news reporter with the Express News Group in August of 2021.She lives in East Quogue with her husband, Dave Riley, and together they have three children: Kendall, 11, Claire, 8, and Sebastian, 6.

The judges said: “The New Faces of Title IX opens with a great story that perfectly captures where women’s sports used to be, and how far they’ve come. Great showing and not telling. I also loved the feature on the open water swimmer. Again, letting the subject carry the story. And the story on the middle school girl making the varsity team was pitch-perfect. I wanted some of these sentences to be tighter, but overall, the storytelling was excellent ... and I cared about these subjects after getting introduced to them.”

THIRD PLACE:
DAVID AMBRO,
THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER

David Ambro has been a community journalist his entire career, which spans more than 40 years. After attending American University in Washington D.C. he was hired by the North Shore News Group on Long Island as a general assignment reporter for The Observer newspaper in Northport and he immediately earned numerous awards, including Long Island Press Club rookie of the year and sports reporter of the year and from the New York Press Association for coverage of education and coverage of the environment, a good first year. Ambro became the news editor, then the editor of The Observer, where he is now in his 41st year as an editor/reporter covering everything from local government and politics to sports and feature news. In 1990 Ambro founded and is the publisher of the Huntington News and in 1993 he added to his responsibility the job of editor/reporter of The Smithtown News. He has amassed hundreds of awards from the New York Press Association (NYPJA) and is a dedicated and committed community journalist.

The judges said: “Great lede on the Matthew Marlow piece. Drew me right in. Didn’t love the “Allen Iverson” eat your heart out” lede in the LAX story ... just a little cliche. But the storytelling and structure of all of these pieces are solid and bear the mark of a longtime storyteller working at his craft.”
Excellence Awards

INVESTIGATIVE/IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
TIMES UNION, ALBANY
Emilie Monson, Matt Rocheleau and Ying Zhao
Excellent series. Deeply reported and authoritative with lots of human stories.

SECOND PLACE
THE JOURNAL NEWS, WHITE PLAINS
Dayna and Janon, Diana Dombrowski, Michael Jaquays
Great graphics. Great human stories illustrating a regulatory issue.

THIRD PLACE
THE JOURNAL NEWS, WHITE PLAINS
David Robinson
Great graphics, great searchable tables, great investigative reporting and watchdogging.

HONORABLE MENTION
THE BROOKLYN PAPER, BROOKLYN
Brachfeld, George Joseph
Clear reporting with real-life examples.

COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
CITY & STATE, NEW YORK
Annie McDonough
An admirable job of reporting on city hall and the work place issues that city governments are wrestling with across the country. Her writing is clear and spells out nicely the details and the history of decisions made by the city’s elected leaders. This is the kind of local government reporting taxpayers need. Keep up the good work.

SECOND PLACE
PORT TIMES-RECORD, PORT JEFFERSON
Robert Jane
This reporter delves deep into a complicated story about a town landmark and development pressures and how a community can approach preserving a delicate area in the face of continued deterioration. Nicely written, well-sourced and clearly a story that is of deep interest to this community. This kind of coverage is hallmark of strong local reporting.

THIRD PLACE
RED HOOK DAILY CATCH, RED HOOK
Emily Sachar, Victor Feldman
These reporters shine in their enterprise reporting of school issues by showing how district policies and decisions affect parents and students. The keen lottery story was exceptional in breaking down the cost in understandable ways and showing why local journalism matters. The newspaper’s community forum for candidates and dogged reporting kept future and elected officials accountable. Keep up the great work.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
QUEENS CHRONICLE, QUEENS
Naetisha Rose, Peter Mastrosimone, Sophie Krichevsky, Scan Okula and Michael Gammon
It’s gratifying to see a gritty, lively city newspaper covering the issues that voters care about every day from government employees misusing parking spots, to trash collections, to bicycle riding rules and details — the edges. This stuff produces consistently high quality news in a clear, energetic way that is easy to understand and engaging.

SECOND PLACE
WARWICK ADVERTISER, WARWICK
Hanna Wickes, Sammie Finch
Really compelling enterprise reporting here, including tracking IP addresses and web site ownership.

THIRD PLACE
TIMES UNION, ALBANY
Roger Hanigian, Roger Hanigian
Good enterprise reporting here on the crime front, as well as the reporting, writing and graphics in the Hudson River rising story. Keep up the good work.

COVERAGE OF EDUCATION

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE
THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT, PHILIPSTOWN
Leonard Sparks, Jenny Ascher and Jeff Simms
These stories reflected great beat coverage: The reporters knew the issues facing the district, but went beyond meeting coverage to delve into what they meant to students and parents. They answered the question: Why should I care? The breakout boxes and sidebars (loved that you are doing these to provide various entry points for readers) added to the overall context and depth. The news features brought important, relevant issues affecting students to the fore in student and teacher voices. All were very well-reported and well-written, thoughtful and engaging. Congratulations on producing excellent local journalism.

SECOND PLACE
WARWICK ADVERTISER, WARWICK
Brian Pfail and Kepherd Daniel
This reporter knows her beat, and her stories reflect her excellent thoughtfulness of the reporting with depth that takes you into the schools and leaves you with a sense of the caring of those involved. The reporters and their video round out a complete package. A public service that shines a light on how a community working together with a single mission can make a difference — which is what superb local journalism aspires to.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE
THE JOURNAL NEWS, WHITE PLANS
Gary Stern, Diana Dombrowski
This is an exceptionally well reported and written series. The reporters did a wonderful job of telling this story through solid data and research and the inclusion of so many student, parent, teacher and admin-istrator voices. Readers leave with a clear understanding of how this turnaround has taken place. The stories are engaging, an easy read with depth that takes you into the schools and leaves you with a sense of the caring of those involved. The photos, graphics and video round out a complete package. A public service that shines a light on how a community working together with a single mission can make a difference — which is what superb local journalism aspires to.

SECOND PLACE
THE JOURNAL NEWS, WHITE PLANS
Gary Stern
This is another stellar example of why local journalism matters: Digging deep, using FOIL requests to tell the local story of a national trend and remind us why we should care. The data puts together the big picture of the region while also providing individual stories within that context. Excellent reporting and writing.

THIRD PLACE
TIMES UNION, ALBANY
Emilie Monson, Josh Solomon and Matt Rocheleau
Strong watchdog reporting on an issue that few seem to know about. Kudos for bringing it to light, using solid reporting and records research that paint a very clear picture. The story also appears to be leading to change, with lawmakers taking notice and — by its publica- tion — putting school districts on notice. Great work.
Photographer of the Year, 2022
There were nine entries in this category

FIRST PLACE:
DEAN MOSES,
AM New York Metro
The judges said: “This entry stood well above the rest with incredible strong storytelling images. The homeless topic is not an easy place to approach. Yet the photographer was able to capture the frozen moments in time that tell the story for the community to better understand itself. Looking through the subjects in the photos, you can tell the photographer was compassionate about the community, the subjects, and human life. They opened their doors to this photographer and let him into their difficult worlds. No brainer for the Photographer of the Year in this division.”

SECOND PLACE:
ROSS CORSAIR,
The Highlands Current
Ross Corsair, photographer for The Highlands Current, was born and raised overseas, living in Europe, Asia and Africa. He apprenticed in college in New York City as an actor under the two-time Toby winner, Wilford Leach, director of the New York Shakespeare Festival. He has been a cameraman for indie features, shorts, documentaries, nonprofits and broadcast television, most recently for The Hunt with John Walsh (CNN) and Mind of a Chef (PBS). He has won five daytime Emmys, including one for camerawork. He worked a cameraman for “Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent,” which played recently at the Tribeca Film Festival, and “Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened,” a documentary about the rare failure of a Stephen Sondheim musical that The New York Times named one of the best films of 2016. His photographs have been exhibited at galleries in the Hudson Valley and New York City.

The judges said: “Great portfolio with variety of good moments, color, and light. Looking through the images, you can see that the photographer values the community by getting out and embedding himself into many walks of life.”

THIRD PLACE:
ERICA MILLER,
The Daily Gazette
Daily Gazette Staff Photographer Erica Miller of Saratoga Springs began her career in the newspaper industry at her college paper, moving up the ranks shortly to Photo Editor. After an internship with NYS Democratic Assembly and Press Republican in Plattsburgh, she began work in Plattsburgh while finishing college. After graduation she worked at The Saratogian for 8 years until landing a job with The Daily Gazette for the past seven years. She also shoots for the Gazette’s two sister newspapers, The Recorder in Amsterdam and Leader-Herald in Gloversville. “My favorite part of my career is how every day is a different day. I love being able to be in the community and meet new (and old) people daily. We get to capture history, especially in a year like 2020, and show it to our readers. We make you feel, like you were there.”

The judges said: “Very clean series of images that also tell the story a vibrant and diverse community.”
Excellence Awards

**Business, Financial & Economic News Coverage**

**First Place**
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Brendan J. O’Reilly, Stephen J. Katz
Really nice, clear writing on even the super wonky mortgage and tax stories. I loved the Inventory Plunge story for its clarity and the Poor story for the OMG, SERIOUSLY effect.

**Second Place**
AmyNew York Metro, New York
Kirstyn Brendlen
Really on-point writing and reporting. I liked the arc from the big problem, to the small theater/market solutions.

**Third Place**
Adirondack Explorer, Saranac Lake
Tim Rowland

**Honorable Mention**
The Photo News, Monroe
Becca Tucker and Molly Colgan
Really nice subject matter selection and writing. I appreciated that you humanized the tech in self-check out and LOVED the side hustle story. It’s clear that you two care about your audience.

**Coverage of the Arts**

**Division I**

**First Place**
Chelsea Community News, New York
Michael Musto, Puma Perl, Eileen Stukane, Elizabeth Zimmer and Scott Stiffler
Hopper’s New York: a grand redefinition of the metropolis. The art samples engage readers. The writer/reporter provides contextual balance in the story line though attribution of cited details is missing.

Melisa Etheridge’s Open Book: the enduring art. Then there's the writer do for a community is not just personal, but inspirational. It takes venues and supporting community groups to bring art to the People. And it takes a community news medium to bridge the synapse!

**Honorable Mention**
Che索la Community News, New York
Marty Barrett, Charli Batterys, Michael Musto, Travis S.D. and Scott Stiffler
These stories engage readers. They personality the value of cooperation. The writers create a sense of participation with narrative style.

**Coverage of the Environment**

**Division II**

**First Place**
Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Benjamin Pommerance
This reporter anchors a position in the cultural and community unmatch on, in this judge’s opinion, in communicating the values and rewards of story engagement. Writing for readers. Almost in detail, amazing historical relationships for context and understanding through these stories. These stories hide no treasures, they reveal them.

**Second Place**
The South Shore Press
Annette Hinkle
For example, “art” reveals the existence of Native American culture on the east coast and, indeed, in the story presented here, Magnificent writing. The story truly connects readers to a missing culture and enduring art. Then there’s the writer: Journalist, educator. His story connects the values of his profession to the readers here in exposed. Almost a seasonal comic-con, art dances through and pirouettes around the community in an “elegy to Hopper’s New York.” No art on a wall in this story, but certainly in human form—neighbor to neighbor.

**Second Place**
The Suffolk Times, Mattucuck
Brianne Ledda, Bob Liepa, Sara Smith and Joe Werkmeister
This was a very well done series of articles that really - in my judgment - captured the spirit of environmental reporting. All the topics were interesting, varied and all important - but also unique and the outside the norm of usual environmental topics. I also was enthralled by the writing, which flowed, had needed elements of news coverage and did not dip into opinionating (commonly so much in even environmental reporting). The writer for both a great series of reads, but also informative topics that enlightened me.

**Third Place**
Dan’s Papers, Bridgehampton
Timothy Bolger, Oliver Peterson
This was a great series of six articles, all of which had a mix of elements from writing, sourcing, topic, local relevance, photographs and even graphics that made them. all compelling reads. The structure and flow of the content and reporting was excellent, as was the balance and staying neutral in reporting.

**Honorable Mention**
Adirondack Explorer, Saranac Lake
Gwendolyn Craig, Zachary Matson and Mike Lynch
I thoroughly enjoyed these four articles, which spanned the topics of animal migration amid environmental changes; using bugs to battle invasive/destructive bugs; the attempts to document and save the local trout species and for some flavor, a development focused piece on a mega huge boathouse that sneaked by new rules on a technical - environmental piece that was marked by very fluid, intelligent written stories that were brilliantly beefed up with robust photographs. throughout all four pieces; some creativity where allowed and no opinions or bias - purely down the middle, factual reporting. Well done, Y’all. Thank you! This was a very competitive category and y’all kicked trout tail.

**Coverage of Health, Health Care & Science**

**First Place**
The Journal News, White Plains
Nancy Cutter
This was journalism at its best, providing an in-depth look at an impending public health crisis and critical information to the community. Extremely well reported and written, and supported by data and research presented in understandable ways. Graphs and video helped round out a complete package.

**Second Place**
The Photo News, Monroe
Molly Colgan
Loved the surprise approach and localization of current trends/events that bring home to readers how neighbors are affected and how they are reacting to local issues. These types of stories remind readers of the importance of community. Also, a great public service piece on vaccines, and good use of graphs and breakout boxes too provide different entry points to readers, well reported and written. Excellent work.

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BEST FRONT PAGE, 2022

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
MICHAEL HALLISEY, AMARIS FORD
THE COLONIE SPOTLIGHT
The judges said: “This was far and away the best of the group. Each design had a strong headline that matched the photo or illustration choice. The design made it easy for the reader to focus on the content on the page, especially the centerpiece story.”

SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 1
LUIS MATOS, ROBERT POZARYCKI — amNewYork Metro
The judges said: “The layout pops with its usage of colors. It’s easy to grab the readers’ attention.”

THIRD PLACE (TIE) — DIVISION 1
MEGHAN McBREAIRTY — LAKE CHAMPLAIN WEEKLY
The judges said: “The pages were simple, but the photos and the designer’s use of those photos were strong. They really grab your attention.”

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND BRONX TIMES — MAURO DELUCA AND CHRISTIAN FALCONE
The judges said: “These designs have some punch to them. The photo and headline match up quite well.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS
The judges said: “These pages are clean, an easily defined centerpiece and good use of headline fonts. They stand out as some of my favorite designs.”

SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 2
ELLIS GIACOMELLI
WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES
The judges said: “The designer was willing to take chances. A good usage of art, color and graphics to add to the package.”

THIRD PLACE — DIVISION 2
THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN
The judges said: “Front page has all the right elements - great flag (artwork terrific!), clean layout, useful hierarchy, large photos, great heds - everything the reader needs.”
### Headline Writing

#### First Place

**The Suffolk Times, Mattucick**  
Melissa Azofeifa, Brianne Ledda, Grant Parpan, Joe Werkeinstein  
Great reporting here - impressive depth, public service journalism too - the public has a right to know when law enforcement isn't behaving. Breadth of coverage is an indicator of the level of engagement with the community.

#### Second Place

**The News-Review, Riverhead**  
Violeta Flowers, Grant Parpan, Tom Smith and Joe Werkeinstein  
Good in-depth reporting, especially the piece on the children's ranch.

#### Honorable Mention

**Westmore News, Port Chester**  
Sarah Wolpoff, Jeremiah Hassel  
Each story had a good lead to grab the reader's attention.

### Coverage of Crime, Police and Courts

#### Division 2

**First Place**  
**Times Union, Albany**  
Robert Gavin  
The best of the best in a category that had a number of strong entries.

**Second Place**  
Kitty Merrill and Michael Wright  
A strong collection of articles that highlighted the reporters' investigative skills, but also their ability to tackle the passing of a beloved police chief.

**Third Place**  
**The Photo News, Monroe**  
Becca Tucker and Molly Colgan  
Nice work on a collection of issues that the community was grappling with including teen drug use and road rage.

### Honorable Mention

**The Village Sun, New York**  
Lincoln Anderson  
Lots of energy, great word play, nicely written and engaging.

**Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic, Brooklyn**  
Megaghan McGoldrick  
High-energy headlines, that are funny and engaging.

### Coverage of Religion, Faith and Politics

#### ESPN

**First Place**  
**Times Union, Albany**  
Chris Braug  
Great in-depth reporting all around with good sourcing on how campaign cash that related to what taxpayers are often paying for - or might pay for should a candidate win.

**Second Place**  
**Warwick Advertiser, Warwick**  
Becca Tucker, Molly Colgan, Dan Wickes and Pete Pinella  
Good job uncovering info on local politicos.

**Third Place**  
**City & State, New York**  
Rebecca C. Lewis, Jeff Cottin and Anne McDonough  
Nice mix of coverage with some decent long-form.

### Historical, Anniversary, or Progress Editions

#### First Place

**The Highlands Current, Phillipstown**  
Chip Rowe and Leonard Sparks  
Clearly a very encompassing special section with the likely took a ton of work from numerous staff over several months. There is wealth of pertinent, topical local information in this report and it spans hundreds of years of history of Black/African American history in the region this publication covered the flow of the timeline naturally beginning hundreds of years ago and culminating in more recent times. The use of the timelines for assorted achievements was very good; also liked the pull quote “banks” that were utilized. Many, many photographs, maps and illustrations from past and present were interspersed throughout. A powerful topic that was handled very nicely. The social, cultural and historical elements and topics presented in this, along with stellar layout, good writing and depth of content pushed it to the top in my opinion as a judge, Kudos to the team; good job on all fronts and keep the powerful work.

#### Second Place

**Queens Chronicle, Queens**  
Deidre Bardolf, Mike Cugno and Sophie Krichetsy and Sean Okula  
A very nicely done special section which in my judge’s opinion stood out as the best of the entries on the anniversary of Hurricane Sandy by other publications; and also as one of the best four entries overall. I based this on several factors: topical and very good reporting and writing; great flow of the coverage; nice cover photo and other art included; and complete time and depth. There was a piece on the people of the storm; the usual package with archive photos; then a look at the heroism of first responders; a solutions reporting story on how utilities are learning from storm 10 years later; strong in touching on how storm impacted a neighboring community. Well done and keep up the nice work. Thank you.

#### Third Place

**Lake Placid News, Lake Placid**  
Andy Flynn  
I really liked this special section. Good job on it. I graded you Third Place because of a few items compared to the top two entries. Much of the content was (from credits) written by the local historical society. The newspaper generated content was two articles (both good) and a series of photos. Hence, I dropped you compared to first and second, which were more staff-generated. The uses of maps was great; loved the cover image - really captured the feel and vibe IMO. The walking tour of trails, while submitted, was cool, and it is chock full of interesting stuff and previes the festivities. What one of my old editors would call, “a coffee table at the lake cabin keeper.” Good job and thank you.

### Excellence Awards

#### Third Place

**The Highlands Current, Phillipstown**  
Leonard Sparks and Jeff Simms  
Great work localizing national and regional trends and finding community voices to tell those stories. Good use of graphs and data to round out the maims. A great variety of issues addressed, including the watchdog piece on the costly detention and the public service piece on health care costs. Well-reported and written. Excellent work.

#### Honorable Mention

**Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor**  
Michelle Trauring and Brendan O’Reilly  
This newspaper group should be lauded for creating partnerships with its communities’ local health systems — through a virtual and live event series — that help residents understand how cancer treatment and mental health services are being addressed and what kind of future services they expect. Partnering with community organizations reinforces how strong local journalism is vital to bringing to the forefront relevant and important information needed to build strong communities.

#### Headline Writing

#### First Place

**Red Hook Daily Catch, Red Hook**  
Emily Sachar  
Really nicely done. Good word play, high energy, engaging. Keep up the good work.

#### Second Place

**The Village Sun, New York**  
Lincoln Anderson  
Lots of energy, great word play, nicely written and engaging.

#### Third Place

**Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic, Brooklyn**  
Megaghan McGoldrick  
High-energy headlines, that are funny and engaging.

#### Honorable Mention

**The Village Sun, New York**  
Lincoln Anderson  
Nice word play, fun headlines. The work shows that plenty of thought and a love of words came into play here. Keep up the good work.

### Coverage of Crime, Police and Courts

#### Division 1

**First Place**  
**The East Hampton Press, East Hampton**  
Stephen Kats, T.E. McMorrow, Michael Wright, Kitty Merrill and Michelle Trauring  
La a category that featured some strong competition at the top, the mixture of hard news, as well as the lieutenant feature, gives them the nod.

### Historical, Anniversary, or Progress Editions

#### First Place

**The Highlands Current, Phillipstown**  
Chip Rowe and Leonard Sparks  
Clearly a very encompassing special section with the likely took a ton of work from numerous staff over several months. There is wealth of pertinent, topical local information in this report and it spans hundreds of years of history of Black/African American history in the region this publication covered the flow of the timeline naturally beginning hundreds of years ago and culminating in more recent times. The use of the timelines for assorted achievements was very good; also liked the pull quote “banks” that were utilized. Many, many photographs, maps and illustrations from past and present were interspersed throughout. A powerful topic that was handled very nicely. The social, cultural and historical elements and topics presented in this, along with stellar layout, good writing and depth of content pushed it to the top in my opinion as a judge, Kudos to the team; good job on all fronts and keep the powerful work.

#### Second Place

**Queens Chronicle, Queens**  
Deidre Bardolf, Mike Cugno and Sophie Krichetsy and Sean Okula  
Good sustained news coverage of faith-related stories in the coverage area from vandalism to zoning to High Holy Days security and more.

#### Third Place

**The Village Sun, New York**  
Mary Reinholz, Lincoln Anderson  
Deent enterprise stories with good sourcing.

### Sports Feature

#### Division 1

**First Place**  
**Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake**  
Aaron Marbone  
Compelling and moving story. Great to see someone who is not typically covered in sports section, be the focus of a sports story. Excellent writing and great use of quotes and people for the story; The story felt like the beginning of a sports career for Allie Ott, not just a story about her disability. The connection between the older para-athletes and Ott was another captivating angle.

#### Second Place

**Fire Island News, Bay Shore**  
Christopher Verga  
Unique story, style and writing made me feel like I was there on the fat tire bikes. Short and sweet, but a very succinct and interesting story. Felt like a combination of a travel, sports, and interest piece.

#### Third Place

**The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach**  
Desiree Koeghan  
Great style and presentation of Vander Schaaf’s journey. Reading the ups and downs he faced was a rollercoaster, the story kept my interest.

### Coverage of Religion

#### First Place

**The Highlands Current, Phillipstown**  
Brian PJ Cronin  
Excellent enterprise series with great sourcing examining how Christian churches in the circu- lation area are evolving and coping with a nationwide decline in church-goers/believers. Good work.

#### Second Place

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#### Third Place

**The Village Sun, New York**  
Mary Reinholz, Lincoln Anderson  
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Best News Website, 2022

**First Place**
The Southampton Press - Eastern
The judges said: “Someone is working hard on this site to create user engagement.”

**Second Place**
The Highlands Current
The judges said: “Loads quickly and easy to navigate.”

**Third Place**
The Scarsdale Inquirer
The judges said: “Local ads, obits, sponsored content, events, opinion makes this a well rounded website.”

Best Online Ad, 2022

**First Place**
Matt Sourwine, Nicole Barry, Kayleigh Tarbet
The Post-Standard
The judges said: “Having your team go out and use a drone to capture the picture puts this ads at the top of the list.”

**Second Place**
Matt Sourwine
The Post-Standard
The judges said: “…the automated flashed light on the car really pulls a reader in.”

**Third Place**
The East Hampton Press
The judges said: “Can’t go wrong with using kids having fun in the surf as this ad did.”
**Solutions Journalism Project**

**First Place**

An affordable housing project was the subject of one section of the project. Essentially, the story was based on a long-term rental market; the need for reforming access to affordable housing in single family neighborhoods; and providing ways for existing structure conversion to multiple family housing. But the story goes to the paper for combining all three approaches to solving one of the community’s most dire needs and pressing issues with Proposition 2, a Community Housing Fund that would derive from a .5 percent tax on real estate sales above $400,000. The effort included analysis of small meetings, the urgent, big call language of its editorials; an examination of almost identical crises in other American states sparked in part by the current political climate; and reporting and writing across the gamut. The project explored a similar trail in North Path, the oldest continuously maintained trail in the Adirondacks, with living theme of reservations beautifully. The reporters do a nice job of putting readers into these beautiful locales, including the Crawford Notch, and living in or near poverty. Home health aides make $13.20 to $14.75 per hour, according to the series. They could make $15-$17 flipping burgers, $21 driving a bus. The telling becomes personal with people like Maggie Ormiston, 44, who has spent her entire adult life caring for her mother, who suffered a cerebral aneurysm in the ‘90s. Keith Gargiulo makes sure his wife’s awake so his home health aide can help bath and clothe him, and then lift him out of bed and into his wheelchair before they have to leave for the day. A diving accident in 2009 left Jeff Gargiulo, 30, paralyzed from the shoulders down. He’s among those who need 24/7 care, but can’t have 12 hours a day alone. Among the solutions presented are a legislative proposal by New York advocates, the Fair Pay for Home Care Act, that would guarantee 150 percent of minimum wage as a baseline standard. The main thrust calls for “crucial enforcement on the part of the agencies which run these services, on the part of large nursing home chains that profit. The focus is on the players who are over field needs to elevate its work.” The series surmises, through training and education that allows employees to advance from personal care assistants, provide better care and make more money. For example, support the aide or assistant who could go to night school to become a licensed practical nurse. It’s a start. The series estimates the nation will need an additional 430,000 aides and assistants by 2025, for Baby Boomers advance through their 70s and beyond. That’s huge, and will impact many, many families. Perhaps including our own.

**Second Place**
**The East Hampton Press, East Hampton**

Cailin Riley

Excellent review of a topic that is talked about a lot, but not in-depth enough. Great use of local women who have perspectives on Title IX and how it changed their careers. The hit on covering a major national topic, while also keeping it largely focused. Enthralling read.

**Third Place**
**Daily Gazette, Schenectady**

Adam Shinder

Great reporting on a phenomenal player. Interesting how dominant they are and the need for even more competitive and challenging top two college leagues. Enjoyed the quotes from coaches and players about her.

**Honorable Mention**
**Daily Gazette, Schenectady**

Mike MacAdam

Excellent writing. Amazing intro, made me feel like I was there with Frame and the racchore. Very unique and a great twist on a sports story.

**Sports Coverage**

**First Place**
**Daily Gazette, Schenectady**

No entry matched this one for breadth and depth of coverage, nor the design and photography. Great writing, a wide array of coverage, and all of it very easy on the eyes.

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

Drew Budd

Really hard choice here. The entries from the Sag Harbor Express, East Hampton Express and the Southampton paper were all excellent. Solid writing, great photography and great design that captures the local sports and recreation scene in each place.

**Third Place**

Drew Budd

Really hard choice here. The entries from the Sag Harbor Express, East Hampton Express and the Southampton paper were all excellent. Solid writing, great photography and great design that captures the local sports and recreation scene in each place.

**Honorable Mention**
**The East Hampton Press, East Hampton**

Drew Budd

Really hard choice here. The entries from the Sag Harbor Express, East Hampton Express and the Southampton paper were all excellent. Solid writing, great photography and great design that captures the local sports and recreation scene in each place.

**Honorable Mention**
**The Nassau Observer, Hicksville**

Dave Gil de Rubio

**Honorable Mention**
**The Highlands Current, Philipstown**

Skip Pearlman

**Honorable Mention**
**The Scarsdale Inquirer**

Todd Silss, Jim MacLean and Rob Diantonio

**Honorable Mention**
**The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn**

Kirsten Brendlen

In nominating the story about a law school’s hasty retreat from an announced move to a new janitorial contractor, one that does not honor union contracts, one that would have slashed the pay of decades-long workers from $30 to $17 per hour and eliminated all benefits, health insurance, retirement and vacation, the paper described it as “the definition of solutions journalism.” Hours after the newspaper published its story, administrators changed course. Maybe. But it is also an example of Brooklyn Law School being taken to the woodshed by a wage decrease, and not being able to stand the heat. Either way, you got to like it.
DIVISION 1
FIRST PLACE
ADIRONDACK EXPLORER
ZACHARY MATSON
POWER THROUGH THE PARK
The judges said: "Engaging writing on an interesting and controversial topic."

SECOND PLACE
ADIRONDACK EXPLORER
GWENDOLYN CRAIG
LESSONS FROM NEW YORK’S 1996 BOND ACT
The judges said: "Good accountability journalism with a focus on the Adirondack region."

THIRD PLACE
THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
JEFF SIMMS
ARE THE KIDS ALRIGHT?
The judges said: "Good in-depth reporting. Love hearing from the teenagers themselves."

DIVISION 2
FIRST PLACE
TIMES UNION
EMILIE MUNSON, MATT ROCHELEAU, YING ZHAO
WHEN SCHOOLS USE FORCE
The judges said: "Excellent comprehensive coverage. This type of story imprints on readers in a powerful way. Wonderful work."

SECOND PLACE
THE JOURNAL NEWS
DAVID ROBINSON, DIANA DOMBRWSKI, MICHAEL JAQUAYS
WHY THOUSANDS OF NURSING HOME COMPLAINTS DURING COVID ARE UNRESOLVED
The judges said: "Great graphics. Great human stories illustrating a regulatory issue."

THIRD PLACE
THE JOURNAL NEWS
DAVID ROBINSON
AS COVID raged in NEW YORK HOSPITALS, EXECUTIVES POCKETED $73M IN BONUSES
The judges said: "Great graphics, great searchable tables, great investigative reporting and watchdogging."
**Spot News Coverage**

**Division 1**

**First Place**
**Putnam County**

**News & Recorder, Cold Spring**

Douglas Cunningham

This story could have been a brief report about a shooting. Instead, it is a well-sourced and well-researched description of a societal problem and obstacles to addressing it effectively.

**Second Place**

**Westmore News, Port Chester**

Jeremiah Hassel

This reporter has assembled a story featuring every aspect of a house fire and its aftermath. Of all the fire stories submitted, this stood out.

**Third Place**

**Livingston County News, Geneva**

Margaret Lee, Ben Beagle and Matt Surtel

This interesting package raises above traditional spot reporting on a form.

**Honorable Mention**

**Adirondack Daily Enterprise**

Aaron Marbone

Solid reporting and careful writing.

**Spot News Coverage**

**Division 2**

**First Place**

**The Suffolk Times, Mattituck**

Tim Gannon, Tara Smith, Joe Werkmeister and Steve Wick

This entry demonstrates solid reporting, clear writing, and good judgment.

**Second Place**

**The Daily News, Batavia**

Brian Quinn, Matt Surtel and Ben Beagle

This package is very well researched, written and organized.

**Third Place**

**The East Hampton Press, East Hampton**

Stephen J. Kotz

This reporter clearly described the details of the tragedy and answered questions that readers would have asked.

**Honorable Mention**


Cailin Riley

This was an enjoyable story to read, with a headline that pulled me in, and the issue was clearly explained.

**Spot News Coverage**

**Division 3**

**First Place**

**New York Metro, New York**

Robert Pozarycki, Debn Mehta

Stephen J. Kotz

These three issues exemplify very solid coverage of a crime that has gripped the community.

**Second Place**

**Gay City News, New York**

Kathleen Warnock

This is an inspiring story. It would have been made stronger by the inclusion of a photo of Lorde.

**Honorable Mention**

**Bay Ridge Courier, Bay Ridge**

Ben Brachfeld

Kudos to the reporter for finding a unique angle on a storm that affected many.

**News Story**

**Division 1**

**First Place**

**The Village Sun, New York**

Lincoln Anderson

This is a very compelling story about Greenwich Village neighborhoods hiring their own security firms to do what residents think police are unable to do — curb homelessness and drug-related crime in the street. The most compelling aspect is the hiring of armed security guards. It’s in the headline but buried pretty deeply in the story. Gumpert gentrification? I want to read the follow-up.

**Second Place**

**Clarence Bed, Clarence**

Emily Stoll

What a tragic story: Four children left orphaned, the result of their father’s shooting spree. A good mix of straight-news crime reporting and community reaction.

**Third Place**

**Adirondack Explorer, Saranac Lake**

Mike Lynch

I am a fan of the feature lede, even in news stories, but this was a bit long. It took nearly 300 words before you got to the gist: the hunter mistakenly shot an endangered wolf. Buried lede aside, a very thorough, well-researched article. Well done!

**Honorable Mention**

**The Northport Observer, Northport**

David Ambro


**News Story**

**Division 2**

**First Place**

**The Highlands Current, Phillipstown**

Jeff Strumpf

I have to admit that this piece was quite provocative. The loss of Charles Lucy impacted a whole community as well as a family but it was beautiful to see journalism taking a look back — over 100 years, in fact. It stunningly illustrated that though over 100 years have passed, violence and loss still infect our society. However, families and communities still come together to rectify loss — at least in some form.

**Honorable Mention**

**Brick Times Reporter and Brick Times, Bronx**

Ameena Walker

This piece nicely encapsulates why we have local papers — people care about people who care. I loved the brevity of the article and how the author painted Franco as someone who wanted, for quite some time, to do something to make the world better. It was wonderful to see that Franco landed a job that is somewhat within her love of flowers and nature and proved that living in the Bronx doesn’t relegate people from the beauty.

**Third Place**

**The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach**

Kitty Merrill

This piece had a great combination of historical significance, current-day events, and personal quirks to make the reader care about the subject i.e. William Hughes. The “ante” was really increased when the author carefully described the respect given to those who earn the title of All American and Legacy Life members. It was beautiful to see a life deconstructed by an outside author and then reconstructed to show the significance of Hughes and those like him.

**Honorable Mention**

**The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach**

Desiree Keegan

This piece touched my soul as the needs of the community truly arose within the article. The author's ability to extract the when/where/how was great but I also appreciated the deeper look at how the community was impacted by the pantry and how students benefit from those who care enough to look out for them.

**News Story**

**Division 3**

**First Place**

**The East Hampton Star, East Hampton**

Carissa Katz and Judy D’Mello

Carissa Katz did a nice job weaving the gentleman’s bio, achievements into the story while still making it a fresh celebration of his life. Good number of sources and quotes.

**Second Place**

**The Somers Record, Somers**

Carol Reif

A very important and controversial subject faced by many communities. The story was filled with multiple sources from both side of the issue. One structural issue is that there were comments about the online petition before the petition was brought into the story and explained.

**News Story**

**Division 4**

**First Place**

**The Journal News, White Plains**

Matthew Korfhage

Very well written. Very good lede followed with deep dive into the history that led from a free-tuition university to a national student debt crisis.

**Second Place**

**The Times Union, Albany**

Lana Bellamy, Phillip Pantuso

In a category rife with strong issue stories, an election-day tick-tock is not an obvious choice for recognition. But this one stood out. It is a very well written, deep-dive report into U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney’s very

**Third Place**

**The Journal News, White Plains**

Peter D. Kramer

A chilling story, well researched and very well told.
**Best Solutions Journalism Project, 2022**

**First Place**

**The Southampton Press-Eastern**

The judges said: “...the award goes to this newspaper for its all-in approach to solving one of its community’s most dire and pressing issues.”

**Second Place**

**Democrat and Chronicle**

The judges said: “A thoughtful and poignant examination of a problem bedeviling thousands of New York families and tens of thousands more nationwide.”

**Third Place**

**The Adirondack Explorer**

The judges said: “The reporters do a nice job of putting readers in these beautiful locales, including the Crawford Path, the oldest continuously maintained trail in North America, the peaks spreading out to Mount Washington.”

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**Best Graphic Illustration, 2022**

**First Place**

**Denise Little**

The judges said: “Wonderful use of graphics and white space to enhance the article.”

**Second Place**

**Alex Law and Andrew Horton**

City & State

The judges said: “Very cleanly done.”

**Third Place**

**Christina Scotti**

Warwick Advertiser

The judges said: “Very effective use of color and shape.”
Excellence Awards

HONORABLE MENTION
North Country This Week, Plattsburgh
Thomas Lawton

HONORABLE MENTION
The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Anna Bradley-Smith

HONORABLE MENTION
Long Island Press, Syosset
Madeline Armstrong

FEATURE STORY
Division 1
FIRST PLACE
Red Hook Daily Catch, Red Hook
Victor Feldman
EXCELLENT. Just an excellent feature article that draws you in, places you in the orchard. Such a sense of place.
SECOND PLACE
Red Hook Daily Catch, Red Hook
Emily Sachar
Such a talented writer. I feel like I’m at the fair. Great story with an interesting "folk art" vibe. Photos add to the story, too.
THIRD PLACE
The Ithaca Voice, Ithaca
Matt Butler
I must visit NY and specifically, this taco stand. Interesting details about the food, how the stand is set up and how it’s perceived. Well written. “The setting is humble but the food is not.” Great way to set the tone.
HONORABLE MENTION
Red Hook Daily Catch, Red Hook
Emily Sachar

FEATURE STORY
Division 2
FIRST PLACE
Westmore News, Port Chester
Sarah Wolpoff
Really enjoyable read. I was glad to have the Pew religion trends data in there for context, and liked that you got members of both congregations to speak frankly about what was going on, and framed the whole story with a community lens.
SECOND PLACE
The News-Review, Riverhead
Joe Wernetke
Really nice, disciplined storytelling, esp given the potentially fraught subject matter, both for the donor family and the woman having the baby. I was able to feel this tension without being smacked over the head with it. Thank you!

FEATURE STORY
Division 3
FIRST PLACE
Bronx Times Reporter and Bronx Times, Bronx
Robbie Sequeira
This provided a fascinating picture of an industry that operates mostly in the background of daily life.
SECOND PLACE
The Spotlight (Delmar)
John McIntyre
This captured my attention.
THIRD PLACE
Bronx Times Reporter and Bronx Times, Bronx
Robbie Sequeira
Good explanation of a timely and tragic story.
HONORABLE MENTION
The Red Hook Star-Revive, Brooklyn
Erie Degregorio
Learned something new!

FEATURE STORY
Division 4
FIRST PLACE
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Michelle Trauring
As a parent who has lost an adult son and been unceremoniously thrust into navigating grief with no instructions, this was a wonderful glimpse into one man’s grief process. Well done.
SECOND PLACE
The Somers Record, Somers
Carol Reif
I appreciated the way this story was handled. An excellent example of unbiased reporting.
THIRD PLACE
The Daily Star, Oneonta
Mike Forster Rothbart
This was interesting and emotional.
HONORABLE MENTION
The Village Times Herald, Scotia
Rita J. Eger
I like the way this combined current and historic information.

FEATURE STORY
Division 5
FIRST PLACE
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Carly Newton
Outstanding work making the story very easy to read and digest, and balancing the right amount of quotes.
SECOND PLACE
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Chris Brock
Terrific story showcasing how the walk helped both individuals in their own ways. Very strong writing. A tough decision between first and second place.
THIRD PLACE
The Riverdale Press, Riverdale
Sachi McClendon
Great job finding a way to localize a great story. Would have been nice to hear more about/from Shabbos.
HONORABLE MENTION
The East Hampton Star
Christopher Gangemi
I really enjoyed and appreciated the attention to detail through this piece, though there could have been a little more clarity in a few more areas -- considering the vast majority of readers are likely not super familiar with the intricate parts of horses.

FEATURE STORY
Division 6
FIRST PLACE
The Journal News, White Plains
Matthew Korfhage
Really comprehensive reporting. Multi-sourced, multi-faceted, highly educational and very interesting. This is journalism at its best. These sorts of stories remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.
SECOND PLACE
Times Union, Albany
Katherine Kiessling
The source, well-written, very interesting. I would like to have seen a comment or two from someone who regularly visits the scary properties. Still, I would have enjoyed this story at the breakfast table on Feb. 22 gets into the $5 impacts. Always follow the money and there’s big money in health care Mallory Diefenbach - excellent reporting, use of quotes, attribution and background context. You own this! (Did anyone ever learn what was in the box??? Precise photos. Photo reproduction is excellent. The passage of time is evident by the photos: Masks and then no masks. Strong headlines and subheads. Good heads/subheads is a positive trend at your publication.
HONORABLE MENTION
The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Jeff Simmons
Everything about this series is on point: concept, presentation, writing, photography and artwork, info graphics, next-edition preview, etc. And reader-funded! Engaging writing. Top of front page placement shows community service commitment.

HONORABLE MENTION
The Daily News, Batavia
Brian Quinn, Scott DeSmit, Mallory Diefenbach
Excellent reporting by all involved. Puts the local face on national issue. Excellent use of quotes and attribution all the way around. Congratulations!
Best Local Business Support Campaign

**First Place**
The Highlands Current
Teresa Lagerman

“This is sweet (pun intended). I'm in. I love ice cream. I am sure your ice cream shops loved the promo. The nice pastel ad is fitting.”

**Second Place**
The Village Times Herald

“Nice program. Shows involvement in the community. And involves the community.”

**Third Place**
Long Island Press

“A well-executed Readers’ Choice program.”

Best Audience Development Promotion

**First Place**
The Daily Gazette
Michelle Wright

The judges said: “The focus on a niche you so clearly do well at, and your use of it to drive sales, is exactly what we all need to be doing.”

**Second Place**
The Daily Gazette
Michelle Wright

The judges said: “I have beagles. You gave me a beagle.”

**Third Place**
The Chronicle, Goshen
Christina Scotti

The judges said: “I love the Stop signs ad. I hope it pulled for you.”
Excellence Awards

**BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES**

**Division 1**

**FIRST PLACE**

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

**Carly Newton**

Exceptional coverage of an issue affecting a community. The series was comprehensive, balanced and consistent. Residents no doubt appreciated having their story told as it unfolded.

**SECOND PLACE**

Queens Courier, Bayside

Julia Moro and Bill Parry

Excellent job covering the issue of a megadevelopment, providing the thorough information throughout while giving voice to the complexity of the proposal and its potential consequences. Bravo!

**THIRD PLACE**

The Yorktown News, Yorktown

Sophia Caselnova

Steady coverage of the Par 3iasco made for a fascinating read. The newspaper deserves applause for its thorough coverage of city affairs and the impacts of municipal decisions on the residents of an area.

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson

Raymond Janis

BEST OBITUARIES

**FIRST PLACE**

Fire Island News, Bay Shore

Joey Macciaro, Robert Levine, Nicole Cardone, Hannah Flynn, Samantha Salerno and Shoshanna McCollum

We should all be so lucky to have an obituary section like this. It shows community caring and honor for the lives of all who have died. It says “This person was important to our community.” Each obit, capturing the specialness, the uniqueness of each person. They don’t need to be long. They tell the story of the person so well because each tells the story of someone’s life as it was lived. The quote is purposeful, meaningful and personal. So lovely. So honorable. A privilege to read them.

**SECOND PLACE**

Glen Cove Herald, Glen Cove

Laura Lane

Wonderful obits take a reader straight into the stories of these two people’s lives. The quotes and anecdotes capture their essence, leaving the reader feeling a sense of who they were. There’s warmth and spirit in these stories. And besides being a record of their lives, they tell the spirit of the community around them. Great work!

**THIRD PLACE**

The News-Review, Riverhead

Melissa Arrozefa, Viola Flowers and Tim Gannon

The obit on Angelo Stavropoulos was especially touching. His energetic and giving personality — and impact on the community — were so evident in the anecdotes and details. A really lovely piece. Sister Margaret’s obit made clear the difference she had made in her community — it was less about personality and more about accomplishment — but told with quotes from those she worked with. Really nice work!

**EDITORIALS**

**Division 1**

**FIRST PLACE**

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora

Three very strong editorials. Each editorial takes a firm stance. Lede sentences are to the point. Great job advising and educating your readers on some very important topics.

**SECOND PLACE**

RiverheadLocal.com, Riverhead

Three strong editorials. Strong stance on each editorial. All three educate readers about some very important issues. Great job!

**THIRD PLACE**

The Daily Mail, Catskill

Raymond Pagone

Whipped into a frenzy. Clear and well-written editorial

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid

Andy Flynn

LEAF editorial very informative, Juneteenth recognition, appointment. All three editorials take a firm stance, educate readers. Way to go!

**BEST COLUMN**

**Division 2**

**FIRST PLACE**

The Examiner, Mount Kisco

Adam Stone

This piece did exactly what journalism/editorials are meant to do — expose problems and posit solutions to those problems. We as journalists can’t always change the world but we can draw attention to issues for the world to view. I also appreciated that the author made the choice to commit to a rewrite, a rare choice, in light of listening to a community member.

**SECOND PLACE**

Brookhaven Messenger, Brookhaven

I appreciated this piece as it took a close look at mental health for men — a virtually non-existent aspect of modern life.

**THIRD PLACE**

The Smithtown News, Smithtown

David Ambro

Good reason to oppose Stony Brook Harbor docks — I love that this editorial took on the small-town aspect of opinion and ran with the content. It’s obvious that many in the community care about the waterway and the author is one of them.

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

**FIRST PLACE**

Times Union, Albany

Jeff Boyer

Timely, clear message. The “man on the street” poll is especially effective and thought-provoking.

**SECOND PLACE**

The Southampton Press-Western Edition

Peter Waldner

Clearly an issue for thought with the single question asked. Well done.

**THIRD PLACE**

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island

Peter Waldner

The point of this is clear … and spot on, considering what the public sees and hears about the former first family. Like a classic yard sale, there’s something for everyone.

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson

Kyle Horne

I like the local angle this takes, even though it could be a cartoon drawn for all areas in the country, following redistricting.

**BEST FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD**

**FIRST PLACE**

Times Union, Albany

This series was clearly the best entry in this category. A joint effort that both exposed the issue of student restraints, control and other methods of detention as well as the total lack of, or discommodated patchwork of, statistical reporting by school districts, police departments and state and federal agencies in regard to something critical to the welfare, health and wellbeing of children in schools. This group of people - students/minors who are often disabled, developmental health issues or other developmental conditions - are whom journalist’s work should aim to protect. This does a good job of also looking at the impact of those entrusted with the education and care and safety of those kids, and how the issue affects them. I liked the depth, breadth and wealth of information, sources and facts assembled by this reporting team over a long period of time. The articles, while long, were readable and also sad on many levels. I can envision this series effecting change, which is why I put it No. 1 in this year’s category.

**SECOND PLACE**

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick

Becca Tucker

This entry to did not win first because the articles had too much opinion and bias in favor of the “books included” or kept crowd/side of story. There are clear portions of the articles in which the reporter takes a clear bias/opinionated stance in favor of one side (retaining books) and she also uses wording, phrases interspersed...
and image. The simple,

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**Excellence Awards**

**THIRD PLACE**  
**Riverhead Local.com, Riverhead**  
This entry was unique compared to others in this grouping because it was solely editorial/op-ed entries and no actual "articles." I liked the mixture of factual reporting with editorial stance taken on a range of critical freedom of information issues with this community’s government. There was a factual/incident explanations of why the paper has made these editorial/opinion stances/statements which are eloquently and succinctly woven into each editorial. It is critical for newspapers to speak out on such transgressions, especially when the lack of transparency or merely following state laws, regulations and protocols on government activities are not being followed. Nice work, way to keep the pressure on local officials in a factual and professional manner that serves the public.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Great Neck News, Great Neck**  
Robert Pelaez  
There is a lot of great information in these pieces, info that is important to hold government entities accountable to residents agenda posting or lack of, budget available for review or not, crime stats. Only a part of this entry actually dealt with the staff/reporter making public records requests/FOIA request. Kudos for doing that. One content note: some stories had no direct quote comments from anyone and relied solely on stats. Need to get some people/sources voices into these articles to give them some life. A stat-heavy article may not serve the public as a whole, best of the best in this year’s division.

**SECOND PLACE**  
**The Highlands Current**  
Philpston  
Michael Turturto, Leonard Sparks, Brian Cronin and Alison Rooney  
Excellent writing. This covers so many diverse groups. Especially liked the timeline of Black leaders. The APA format also works well for the Then and Now segment.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Our Town East Side, New York**  
Ken Camela Watson, Abigail Gruskin and Molly Colgan  
The more I thought about the group of articles, the more I realized the appeal: "Average Joes (everyman) being good at what they do." The diversity is in the jobs/fields they represent.

**FEATURE PHOTO(S)**  
**Division 1**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**Suffolk County News, Sayville**  
Ryan Sweezy  
These photos jumped right off my screen. Incredible composition, lighting and cropping. Could’ve easily been a sweep in the category if each were judged individually, but as a whole, best of the best in this year’s division.

**SECOND PLACE**  
**East Meadow Herald, East Meadow**  
Tim Baker  
Loved this photo. Just perfect composition, great lighting and the man’s face tells a story all itself. Raw emotion.

**THIRD PLACE**  
**Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor**  
Michael Heller  
Great photo that tells a story all by itself. It’s interesting, and the lighting and composition are solid.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Livingston County News, Guilderland**  
Ben Beagle  
Very solid photo shot from an interesting angle.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora**  
Marty Wangelin  
Great lighting and a great snap that captures a candid moment ... with a lot going on in the background.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Watertown Daily Times, Watertown**  
Christopher Lenney  
A great “you had to be there” moment. This is crazy!

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Watertown Daily Times, Watertown**  
Christopher Lenney  
Love this!

**SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)**  
**Division 1**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach**  
Ron Esposito  
Great intensity in the faces. Interesting lighting. Not sure which image is the submission. But the lower left photo of the sack is great.

**SECOND PLACE**  
**The Reporter, Walton**  
Benjamin Patton  
Great action photo. Glad we can see the faces of both the ball carrier and defender. Would have liked a tighter crop.

**THIRD PLACE**  
**The Southampton Press**  
Philpston  
Leonard Sparks  
Sometimes what seems like the simplest photo unpacks into a grand narrative — in this case a story of love, struggle, of adversity overcome through strength of a bond. Without reading a word, the viewer is drawn into the emotional story that resulted in this tender moment.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**The Reporter, Walton**  
Benjamin Patton  
**SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)**  
**Division 2**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**The Suffolk Times, Mattituck**  
David Benthall  
The story lives and breathes in the faces of this young family, especially the look of uncertainty in the father’s eyes. There is a universality to this image. It evokes the 1930s dust bowl images by Dorothea Lange and the WPA.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Sullivan County Democrat,- Callicoon**  
Matt Shortall  
I tried to judge the photos based simply on their own storytelling merits, but in a category so rich with great images, it was the story of community loss behind these photos which took this entry over the top.

**FEATURE PHOTO(S)**  
**Division 3**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**Times Union, Albany**  
Jim Franco  
One of the coolest portraits I’ve seen.

**SECOND PLACE**  
**Watertown Daily Times, Watertown**  
Christopher Lenney  
Loved this photo. Just perfect composition, great lighting and the horse’s.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Watertown Daily Times, Watertown**  
Christopher Lenney  
Adorable!

**SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)**  
**Division 3**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**The Smithtown News, Smithtown**  
Peggy Gallery  
Humorous expression

**SECOND PLACE**  
**AmNewYork Metro, New York**  
Dean Moses  
Not sure which photo is the submission, but the first image with the yellow helmet is quite good. Well framed, full of action.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**The Smithtown News, Smithtown**  
Bob Toth  
Good variety of wrestling photos and is well framed.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**The Daily News, Batavia**  
Mark Gutman  
Good action. Love the hat flying off and the way the rider’s legs match the horse’s.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**The East Hampton Press, East Hampton**  
Ron Esposito  
Not sure which photo is the submission, but the first image with the yellow helmet is quite good. Well framed, full of action.

**FEATURE PHOTO(S)**  
**Division 1**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach**  
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Sometimes what seems like the simplest photo unpacks into a grand narrative — in this case a story of love, struggle, of adversity overcome through strength of a bond. Without reading a word, the viewer is drawn into the emotional story that resulted in this tender moment.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**The Reporter, Walton**  
Benjamin Patton
One - love the execution with colored pencils.

The judges said:

**ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE**

**THIRD PLACE**

**THE REGISTER-STAR**

The judges said: “Love the look and pop of this cancer-awareness ad.”

**SECOND PLACE**

**PORT WASHINGTON NEWS**

The judges said: "Love the athlete of the month way to highlight a student.”

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**THE SPOTLIGHT, DELMAR**

The judges said: “Love highlighting all the graduates.”
Excellence Awards

Sports Feature Photo(s)

First Place
The Reporter, Walton
Benjamin Patton
Despite the mayhem and the destruction, there is still respect and spirit among the competitors, as the photographer successfully captured this quick but memorable moment of time.

Second Place
Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Christopher Lenney
The image of the empty wheelchair and an unattended prosthetic leg is a great journalistic composition that tells story the unique sport of sled hockey.

Third Place
East Meadow Herald, East Meadow
Tim Baker
Love the camaraderie and the handwork between the two perfectly captured by the photographer.

Honorable Mention
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Joey LaFranca

Art Photo

Division 1
First Place
Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring
Douglas Cunningham
Very nice shot and excellent use of the image on the page.

Second Place
Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Adam Bundy
Nice photo, works really well with the masthead.

Third Place
Shelter Island Reporter
Shelter Island
Eleanor P. Labrozzi
It takes a quick photographer to catch a hummingbird!

Second Place
SHElTER iSlAND REPORTER, SHElTER iSlAND

SHiRTS iSlAND REPORTER

SHiRTS iSlAND REPORTER

Sports Feature Story

Division 1
First Place
The Daily News, Batavia
Mark Gattman
Intense blaze - powerful moment - right-sized image.

Second Place
The Northport Observer, Northport
Martin Stone
Amazing capture of two large eagles in a battle. Rarely we see them up close. Especially with a camera. Very clean background and perfectly composed action that deserves a spot in spot news.

Honorable Mention
New York Metro, New York
Dean Moses
Up close and personal with the victim of an accident being loaded onto the ambulance. Another great access.

Third Place
The Journal News
White Plains
Frank Bercella Jr.
Unique capture of the firefighter diving head first into danger.

Honorable Mention
New York Metro
New York
Dean Moses

Spot News Photos

Division 2
First Place
Dana Shaw and Lori Hawkins
Good variety of photos. Clear, good composition and lots of expression.

Second Place
The Times of Smithtown Township, Smithtown
Steven Zaltz
Good variety of parade photos. Clear photos, good composition and lots of expression!

Third Place
The Highlands Current, Phillipston
Valerie Shively
Good variety of photos, use of composition and depth of field techniques.

Honorable Mention
Mahopac News, Mahopac
Tabitha Pearson Marshall
Good job capturing photos of the vigil participants. Wish the photos had been published a bit larger so we could see more expression/detail.

Third Place
amNewYork Metro, New York
Dean Moses

Graphic Illustration

First Place
Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Dennise Little
Wonderful use of graphics and white space to enhance the article.

Second Place
City & State, New York
Alex Law and Andrew Horton
Very cleanly done.

Third Place
Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Christina Scotti
Very effective use of color and shape.

Best Special Section Cover

Division 1
First Place
Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Bryan Boyhan and Lori Hawkins
This was by far the best cover in the entire bunch, sleek and modern.

Second Place
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Bryan Boyhan and Chris Paparo
An easy 2nd choice pick for the clean look and beautiful photo.

Third Place
The Village Times Herald, SETAUKET
Caught my eye. Great use of photograph. Well done.

Best Special Section Cover

Division 2
First Place
Nassau Herald, Lawrence
Jeffrey Negrin
Beautiful light, photography, simple colors and great fonts, just clean and crisp.

Second Place
Our Town East Side, New York
Christina Scotti
Great use of photo and graphics. Impactful. NICE!

Third Place
Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
Rosalie Mycka
Good composition, fun photo

Special Sections/Niche Publications

Division 1
First Place
The Scardeagle Inquirer, Scarsdale
Todd Sliss, Ann Marie Rezen and staff
Front page photo depicts fragility of the topic: advocating and presenting an upbeat, hopeful content following the pandemic. Interior provides excellent resources for parents and students.

Second Place
The River Reporter, Narrowsburg
Amenarie Schuetz, Amanda Reed
Excellent layout and photography; good balance of ads and articles. Informative, giving the reader an interesting overview of the area.

Third Place
The Village Times Herald, SETAUKET

Love the entire fall theme, from festivals, farms - to seasonal soup and pie recipes. Creative use of color, layout is very readable.

Special Sections/Niche Publications

Division 2
First Place
Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Layout is superior. Excellent use of photography to describe local owners/chefs. Excellent food photography. Unique and effective design in use of articles vs ad space

Second Place
Queens Chronicle, Queens
The Front Page! Artistic, and excellent representation of the art within. Similar design used throughout the interior was also effective and artistic. Great historical and cultural aspects of the community highlighted.

Third Place
The Post-Standard, Syracuse
MJ Kravec, Sean McKeown-Young, JoAnne Coughlin Walsh and J. Queri
Great organization, and unique use of layout and design. A very user-friendly quiz.

Picture Story

Division 1
First Place
Dana Shaw and Lori Hawkins
Good variety of photos. Clear, good composition and lots of expression.

Second Place
The Times of Smithtown Township, Smithtown
Steven Zaltz
Good variety of parade photos. Clear photos, good composition and lots of expression!

Third Place
The Highlands Current, Phillipston
Valerie Shively
Good variety of photos, use of composition and depth of field techniques.

Honorable Mention
Mahopac News, Mahopac
Tabitha Pearson Marshall
Good job capturing photos of the vigil participants. Wish the photos had been published a bit larger so we could see more expression/detail.

Division 2
First Place
Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Colleen Sullivan

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First Place — Division 1
Douglas Cunningham
Putnam County News & Recorder
The judges said: “Very nice shot and excellent use of the image on the page.”

Second Place — Division 1
Adam Bundy
Shelter Island Reporter
The judges said: “Nice photo, works really well with the masthead.”

Third Place — Division 1
Eleanor P. Labrozzi
Shelter Island Reporter
The judges said: “It takes a quick photographer to catch a hummingbird!”

First Place — Division 2
Hiram Alejandro Duran
The Riverdale Press
“Excellent capture of the emotion of the artist. Great use of depth of focus to center attention on the subject.”

Second Place — Division 2
Frank Becerra Jr.
The Journal News
The judges said: “A classic shot, very well done.”

Third Place — Division 2
Christopher Lenney
Watertown Daily Times
The judges said: “Excellent use of a drone to really capture the detail of the scene.”
Excellence Awards

Best Advertising Campaign

First Place

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT, PHILIPSTOWN
Pierce Strudler
Great use of color to complement the logo and image. The simple, modern font provides sophisticated simplicity.

Second Place

MAHOPAC NEWS, MAHOPAC
Tabitha Pearson Marshall
Sleek, elegant and professional. A great presentation for advertisers.

Third Place

THE SCARSDALE INQUIRER, SCARSDALE
Christina Scotti
The juxtaposition of the vertical slabs with the horizontal gray bars listing their offerings makes this ad interesting, yet keeps it clean and easy to read.

Best Multi-Advertiser Pages

First Place

MERRICK HERALD, MERRICK
Jeffrey Negrin and staff
Great community service to encourage businesses to participate in promoting and appealing layout of safety tips for all ages, it looks like a lot of preplanning and work went into this entry. In a category that had many great entries, this one easily stood out as my number one choice.

Second Place

DAN’S PAPERS, BRIDGEHAMPTON
Beth Landmann
Unique and non-traditional group advertising. Clean, well-coordinated in style and color, and attractive layout.

Third Place

ITHACA TIMES, ITHACA
This is “an oldie but a goodie” but it is also a fun, informative piece for readers, shows pride of business ownership, and is a great way to build a relationship with new advertisers. I also like that after you get the front year of a project like this under your belt, it is easy to sell in future years to current advertisers and add additional advertisers each year.

Honorable Mention

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON
Francesca Lynch and staff
When it we think outside the square, when it we think outside the square, and well-balanced. I love the tagline; I got hungry from reading the ad.

Best Small Space Ad Division 1

First Place

THE SUFFOLK TIMES, MATTITUCK
Flora Cannon
The color blocking provides great balance and flow throughout the ad. Easy to read and the message fills the white space well. Great work!

Second Place

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT, PHILIPSTOWN
Pierce Strudler
The flames and brick in the background tell you that this is brick oven pizza without ever saying it in words. The ad tells me this is no ordinary pizza!

Third Place

MAHOPAC NEWS, MAHOPAC
Tabitha Pearson Marshall
Modern font provides sophisticated simplicity.

Honorable Mention

THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD, SETAUKET
Beth Heller Mason
The flames and brick in the background tell you that this is brick oven pizza without ever saying it in words. The ad tells me this is no ordinary pizza!

Best Small Space Ad Division 2

First Place

WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES, WATERTOWN
Brian Mitchell
Beautiful colors make this ad stand out. The clean layout makes it eye-catching and easy to understand the who, what, where, and when. Great ad!

Second Place

AMHERST BEE, AMHERST
Paula Mitchell
Not too many images. Good white space. Built for digital consumption, which is so important. The message, which is good. Over-all, nice presentation albeit busy.

Best Media Kit/Sales Collateral

First Place

LONG ISLAND PRESS, SYOSSET
Clean. Love the black and white baseline, with planned use of color. Not too many images. Good white space. Built for digital consumption, which is so important. The message, which is good.

Second Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON
Lisa Kain
Love this ad easy to read and staff

Third Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON
Lisa Kain
Love this ad easy to read and staff

Best Real Estate/Home Section

First Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON
This was a beautifully-designed special section all the way around. Great content, great design, just straight up great!

Second Place

PORT WASHINGTON NEWS, PORT WASHINGTON
No flocking around about it, this is a beautiful entry from cover to cover!

Third Place

PORT WASHINGTON NEWS, PORT WASHINGTON
This entry had everything going for it design-wise, and the content was organized beautifully.

Best Special Section - Advertising

First Place

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, EAST HAMPTON
This entry restored my faith in the power of good graphic design. Absolutely fantastic, layouts are LIT (literally and figuratively,) and the content is just so fresh and eye-catching. Love it, love it.

Second Place

THE SCARSDALE INQUIRER, SCARSDALE
Valerie Abrahams, Kathy Potter and staff
GREAT section! Will definitely be borrowing some ideas from this one. It looks elegant and expensive without being stuffy and conveys information in a fresh way.

Third Place

BAYSIDES TIMES & FLUSHING TIMES, QUEENS
Zach Guenther
I really liked this entry a lot - good useful info laid out in a pleasing way. If I were new to Queens or a long-time resident, I would definite-
we were scheduled for a whole... by bit, we were trying to restore it. Toric landmark... This is horrible.

Practice.

At that address before the dental... to do with the inside of the build-

him he could do what he wanted... been delayed. It was supposed... came by and... came in and no-

said. “The fire was contained... scene a little after 1 p.m. He had... was fire. I called 911 right away... walked up to his dental practice at...
**Excellence Awards**

**Classified Advertising**

**FIRST PLACE**

*Williston Times, Williston Park*

Lorenz Rawlings-Morris

Use of color in organizing sections and sub-categories is easy on the eyes and makes it more user-friendly to find the categories one is interested in. Line ads are set in a nice, easily readable font and manner.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Suffolk Times, Mattituck*

Christine Kelly-Smimmo and Flora Cannon


**THIRD PLACE**

*Register-Star, Hudson*

Steve LaRowe


**HONORABLE MENTION**

*The Village Times Herald, Setauket*

I like the way the designer used different line weights to separate sections. Also the use of white space above and below the line ads makes the pages not feel so cluttered and makes it easier to read the ads. Sometimes designing in black and white can be challenging, but this layout is an example of how to do it right. This was very close between first and second Places.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Post-Standard, Syracuse*

Karen Sherwood, Matt Sourwine, Lea Gonyea and Nicole Barry

Lots of good, hard work shows through here. Good consistency across the multiple treatments. Lots of information well presented.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Garden City News, Garden City*

Clean and uncluttered layout. Did not overuse color in layout of sections even though full color was an option on these pages. Different layout of line ads is a nice change from most line ads with separation from “headline” of ad and text. Nice job for your advertisers.

**BEST VIDEO**

**FIRST PLACE**

*The Rockaway Times, Rockaway*

Katie McFadden

What a great video of a beautiful Christmas. Love it!

**SECOND PLACE**

*AmNewYork Metro, New York*

Elizabeth Aloni

Great to get as much information on scams out to reader for their own protection.

**BEST PODCAST**

**FIRST PLACE**

*Times Union, Albany*

Jessica McVay

Great storytelling, interviews and natural sound. Well done audio.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton*

Annette Hinkle and Bill Sutton

Fun story about a local official taking the big stage.

**BEST NEWSLETTER**

**FIRST PLACE**

*Times Union, Albany*

Sarah Diodato

I think this newsletter, started in January of 2022, will become very popular. While its target audience is a younger demographic, I believe it appeals to all demographics. Survey after survey states that “Things to Do” is very important to our readers. This newsletter certainly fills that need. My suggestion is to also link back to top news stories of the week. Maybe most read or something like that. I also like how the design varies so to keep the reader engaged.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Examiner, Mount Kisco*

Robert Schork

While I believe the design could be improved, I do like how this seems to be built right into the CMS so that readers can easily explore beyond what is in the newsletter. I like the variety of content. Including music, news, sports and things to do. Something for everyone.

**BEST HOUSE AD/AD CAMPAIGN**

Division 1

**FIRST PLACE**

*The Village Sun, New York*

Dariya Akdeniz and Lincoln Anderson

Good call to action. Fun verbiage. Clean design. Nice execution. Pretty ad. Clean. Didn’t try to stuff too much messaging into it. I would just make SUBSCRIBE NOW the focus instead of the price.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Post-Standard, Syracuse*

Karen Sherwood, Matt Sourwine, Lea Gonyea and Nicole Barry

Lots of info to share. You did so without it feeling busy/overwhelming. You might add a QR code to make registration.

**THIRD PLACE**

*The Garden City News, Garden City*

Clean and uncluttered layout. Didn’t overuse color in layout of sections even though full color was an option on these pages. Different layout of line ads is a nice change from most line ads with separation from “headline” of ad and text. Nice job for your advertisers.

**BEST LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT CAMPAIGN**

**FIRST PLACE**

*The Highlands Current, Philipstown*

Teresa Lagerman

This is sweet (pun intended). I’m in. I love ice cream. I am sure your ice cream is even better. The focus on a niche you so clearly do well on is exactly what we all need to be doing. Right? Good work. Thank you.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Register-Star, Hudson*

Steve LaRowe

Love the look and pop of this campaign.

**HONORABLE MENTION**

*The Journal News, White Plains*

Tania Savayvan

Love the Journey story.

**BEST INNOVATIVE AD PROJECT**

**FIRST PLACE**

*Adirondack Daily Enterprise*

Saranac Lake

Susan Moore, Carol Swirsky, Tori Marbome and Connie Martelle

Not a new idea but still a good one - the execution with colored pencils, eye catching, appealing fun.

**SECOND PLACE**

*Port Washington News, Port Washington*

Port Washington News

Love the athlete of the month, way to highlight a student.

**THIRD PLACE**

*Register-Star, Hudson*

Steve LaRowe

Love the look and pop of this cancer awareness ad

**HONORABLE MENTION**

*The Spotlight, Delmar*

Dave Abbott

Love highlighting all the graduates

**HONORABLE MENTION**

*The Register-Star, Hudson*

Steve LaRowe

Love the St. Patrick’s ad. The dog is beautiful. Wish I had a dog so I could own a St. Patrick’s Day shirt.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Register-Star, Hudson*

Steve LaRowe

Not a new idea but still a good one - the podcasts by this newspaper are among the most professional. Many of the entries in this category focus too much on the producers, gush over their guests, and don’t adhere to professional journalism tenets. The three I heard by this paper were not ads posing as podcasts or flattery sessions - they dealt with interesting feature topics and the narrator guided the conversation smoothly.

**BEST VIDEO**

**FIRST PLACE**

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**FIRST PLACE**

*Times Union, Albany*

Jessica McVay

Great storytelling, interviews and natural sound. Well done audio.

**SECOND PLACE**

*The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton*

Annette Hinkle and Bill Sutton

Fun story about a local official taking the big stage.

**THIRD PLACE**

*The Highlands Current, Philipstown*

Chip Rowe

Early Black History in the Highlands - the podcasts by this newspaper are among the most professional. Many of the entries in this category focus too much on the producers, gush over their guests, and don’t adhere to professional journalism tenets. The three I heard by this paper were not ads posing as podcasts or flattery sessions - they dealt with interesting feature topics and the narrator guided the conversation smoothly.

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**FIRST PLACE**

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**THIRD PLACE**

*Adirondack Explorer, Saranac Lake*

Melissa Hart

I like the intro to this newsletter. Very personal. Nice variety of news.
Best Special Section Cover, 2022

**First Place — Division 1**
Bryan Boyhan, Lori Hawkins
SAG Harbor Express

The judges said: “This was by far the best cover in the entire bunch, sleek and modern.”

**First Place — Division 2**
Jeffrey Negrin
Nassau Herald

The judges said: “Beautiful light, photography, simple colors and great fonts, just clean and crisp.”

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**Editor’s Note**

Members of the Colorado Press Association and the National Newspaper Association judged the entries in January – no small task. 154 newspapers submitted 2,665 entries; 12 high schools submitted 158 entries; and 15 colleges submitted 121 entries. Wow! The judges’ generous donation of time and expertise yielded thoughtful, interesting comments, intended to recognize excellence, and raise the bar on the already high quality of journalism produced by New York’s newspapers. Knowing how much this contest means to New York’s newspapers, we appreciate the extraordinary effort on the part of the judges.

Jill Van Dusen single-handedly processed the entries, recruited judges, verified the winners, created the plaques and certificates, and Judy Patrick produced the contest newspaper, the convention program and NewsBeat. Their efforts deserve a huge round of applause – and more!

And where would we be without Rick Fensterer – “the man behind the curtain” who tirelessly produces the award shows – Rick – there are no words to thank you.

To our treasured friends and colleagues at Trumbull Printing who print NewsBeat and the Better Contest Newspaper – thank you! We appreciate your good work and your generosity.

And of course, to the newspaper staff who create this award-winning work – your dedication, commitment, and professionalism humbles us. Thank you for taking the time to enter, thank you for attending the conference, and thank you for your continued support of NYPAA - you’re the best!

Michelle
Excellence Awards

THIRD PLACE
Urban CNY, Syracuse
Kenneth Jackson
This clearly was a big event in your community. I like how you weaved in the copy about each speaker along with video of their speeches. Tough to make something like this interesting online, but you did it well.

BEST ONLINE BREAKING NEWS
FIRST PLACE
The Batavian, Batavia
Howard Owens and Joanne Beck
The breaking, ongoing coverage over several days of Winter Storm Elliott reinforces why local journalism is so important—providing constant information about circumstances and where to go for help, relaying information from first responders and officials, writing about community kindness and personal experiences. As the publisher said: “County officials praised our reporting for helping to keep the community informed and ... for timely reporting that both helped let residents know how serious the situation was so they would stay home and helped keep family members of volunteer firefighters informed about events.” Excellent work!

BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE
FIRST PLACE
City & State, New York
Jeff Collin
Intriguing writing draws out a fierce profile of a powerful woman. The narrative and symbolism was well crafted. It was a good dive into an important power player.

BEST WEB PROJECT
FIRST PLACE
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Brannon Ledda and Tara Smith
What a fantastic photo to bring me into the story. And you used video too. Well done with lots of interesting information about the night sky and what people of doing about it. Including the “How to Comply” with light code policy was a great idea.

OVERALL MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE
FIRST PLACE
The Post-Standard, Syracuse
MJ Kravec, Amy Bleier Long and Sue Santola
Very clean and appealing photo layouts, I enjoyed the feature on Ukraine aid efforts locally, more informed about events.” Excellent writing, narrative and symbolism was well executed without becoming cliche. The depth of history woven into the narrative about hum burials was fascinating.

SECOND PLACE
Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Catherine Hernandez
The depth of history woven into the narrative about hum burials was fascinating.

HONORABLE MENTION
BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE
SECOND PLACE
City & State, New York
Jeff Collin
Intriguing writing draws out a fierce profile of a powerful woman. The narrative and symbolism was well crafted. It was a good dive into an important power player.

BLOOPER OF THE YEAR
FIRST PLACE
Smittstown Messenger, Smithtown
Kaitlyn Foley
In our haste to make our early Thanksgiving holiday deadline we missed an “F-word” that should never have made it into print - ugh!

SECOND PLACE
The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Katie McFadden

SECOND PLACE
BEST ONLINE AD
Division 2
FIRST PLACE
The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Matt Sourwine
Having your team go out and use a drone to capture the picture puts this ads at the top of the list. That art drew me into the ad with all the fall colors and the lake. I also like the call to action using the simple words, “View Activities”. Great job on this one.

SECOND PLACE
The Post-Standard, Syracuse
Matt Sourwine
It’s tough to design something different for an auto ad. However the automated flashed light on the car really pulls a reader in. Makes it feel special.

THIRD PLACE
The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Can’t go wrong with using kids having fun in the surf as this ad did. Simple, yet effective design to get people to click on it for additional information for the advertiser.

HONORABLE MENTION
Register-Star, Hudson
Steve LaRowe
Trying to get readers to respond to a recruitment ad is tough. This one, with the words, “we’re hiring” so well designed does that. Good job with the graphics.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY
FIRST PLACE
The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
David Benthal and Lee Meyer
Unique personality flows through each photo that captures the spirit of each individual involved. I really thought it was creative and unique, the photos immediately captured my attention and drew me in.

SECOND PLACE
Time Union, Albany
Mike Goodwin and Wendy Liberatore
This was a great piece of deadline reporting, pulling together police reports, press conferences and other sources to get a full picture of what happened. The addition of multimedia supplemented the story. Information about the neighborhood/bar scene also provided context. Overall, great work!

THIRD PLACE
Queens Chronicle, Queens
Deirdre Bardolf
This was a solid deadline story with many sources and details about how the storm affected the area. Readers learned what the area looked like, where to go for help, what officials were suggesting for staying safe and information for the next days. Good work.

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SECOND PLACE
Long Island Press, Stony Brook
Timothy Bolger
In depth introspection into the reality of going through a situation like this. How time can change perceptions, raw and honest answers provide a very human face for this monstrosity.

HONORABLE MENTION
BEST THEMED ISSUE
FIRST PLACE
City & State, New York
I could truly hear the “voice” of the editor throughout. They are not afraid of taking a position and supporting what they believe in. Lots of interviews provided personalitry and narrative. Every piece was strong and told a story.

SECOND PLACE
Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh
Timeless Traditions is campy and heartwarming without becoming cheesy. The recipes were traditional but also had new takes and twists. The most impactful pieces touched on the darker moments of the holidays. So many people forget that the winter celebrations many of us love can be stark reminders of loss for others. This was touched on with a deft hand while also bringing holiday cheer.

THIRD PLACE
The East Hampton Star, East Hampton
I could feel the childhood nostalgia through the pages. Reading EAST’s Holiday issue felt like listening to an uncle telling stories of past celebrations. Every feature story started strong and drew me in as a reader.

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THIRD PLACE
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This year, for the first time, there is a tie for Newspaper of the Year honors. Both newspapers earned 260 points in the contest. Interestingly, one of these newspapers won the Stuart C. Dorman for editorial excellence and the other was runner up for that award. The runner-up for the Dorman award also placed third in the race for the John J. Evans award for advertising excellence.

One newspaper is a weekly and one is a daily.

One newspaper is now a two-time winner and one is a first-time winner. Congratulations to The Highlands Current & Times Union.

2022 STUART C. DORMAN AWARD FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE
Times Union

This newspaper amassed an impressive 210 point in the editorial competition, beating out its nearest competitor by 25 points. The newspaper won first-place awards for investigative reporting, coverage of crime, police and courts, coverage of election/politics, best column, editorial cartoon, Best Freedom of Information piece, distinguished coverage of diversity and feature photo.

The winner of the 2022 Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence is the Times Union, Albany.

2022 JOHN J. EVANS AWARD FOR ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE
The Post-Standard

When a newspaper wins the same awards multiple times, we know that both the judging and the quality of the submissions was consistent. This is the fourth consecutive year that this newspaper has earned first place in the advertising excellence category. Congratulations to The Post-Standard, Syracuse.

STUART C. DORMAN
Stuart Callender Dorman established a precedent for excellence in publishing when he owned the Suffolk Times (1969 - 1979) and the News-Review (1976 - 1978). Dorman died in 1978, during the year he was to have served as president of the New York Press Association. Dorman was also president and founder of Graphics of Peconic.

He was educated at Andover Academy and Harvard University. Prior to purchasing the Suffolk Times, Dorman held a number of important positions in the book publishing industry, including a 10-year stint as vice president of McGraw-Hill Book Co.

STUART C. DORMAN AWARD
1990 - The Riverdale Press
1991 - The Riverdale Press
1992 - The Riverdale Press
1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1994 - The Riverdale Press
1995 - The Cahu Patent
1996 - The Record Review
1997 - The Record Review
1998 - The Record Review
1999 - The Record Review
2000 - The Sag Harbor Express
2001 - The Villager (NYC)
2002 - The Record Review
2003 - The Sag Harbor Express
2004 - The Villager (NYC)
2005 - The Villager (NYC)
2006 - The North Shore Sun
2007 - The Riverdale Press
2008 - The North Shore Sun
2009 - The Suffolk Times
2010 - Long Island Press
2011 - The Sag Harbor Express
2012 - Long Island Press
2013 - The News Review
2014 - The Suffolk Times
2015 - The Sag Harbor Express
2016 - The Sag Harbor Express
2017 - The Sag Harbor Express
2018 - The Suffolk Times
2019 - The Independent
2020 - Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
2021 - The Sag Harbor Express

JOHN J. EVANS
John J. Evans is the former executive vice president of Bee Publications Inc., Buffalo. Evans is a past president of the New York Press Association and the New York Press Service. Acknowledging the countless hours Evans has devoted to assisting NYPJA members with their advertising programs, the NYPJA Board of Directors established the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence in 1996.

JOHN J. EVANS AWARD
1991 - East Hampton Star
1992 - The Riverdale Press
1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1994 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1995 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1996 - The Record Review
1997 - The Record Review
1998 - The Record Review
1999 - The Record Review
2000 - The Village Times
2001 - The Record Review
2002 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
2003 - The Record Review
2004 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
2005 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
2006 - The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
2007 - The River Reporter
2008 - The East Hampton Press
2009 - The Suffolk Times
2010 - Nassau Herald
2011 - The Village Times Herald
2012 - The Record Review
2013 - TIE -- The Record Review, The Epoch Times
2014 - The Epoch Times
2015 - Dan's Papers
2016 - The Sag Harbor Express
2017 - Dan's Papers
2018 - Dan's Papers
2019 - TIE, Dan's Papers, The Post-Standard
2020 - The Post-Standard
2021 - The Post-Standard
**2022 Best High School Newspaper**

**Tower**

The student run news site of The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, **Tower** takes top honors in the 2022 Best High School Newspaper Contest, earning 110 points, including first-place awards for general excellence, feature story, news story, sports story, and website.

**The judges said:** "This consistent level of journalistic performance does not happen by accident."

The second-place finisher is the **Spectator**, from Fredonia High School. **Spectator** earned an impressive 95 points, including first-place awards for design, photography, and best column.

**The judges said:** "The Spectator is a thoroughly enjoyable and seemingly comprehensive look at the life & times of Fredonia High School."

**Congratulations to all high school competitors!**

A lovely, personal, perfectly paced piece of writing. This is what an excellent local feature should be.

**Second Place**

**Tower, Dobbs Ferry**

Elle Yang and Barantsevich

Excellent writing and excellent journalism - uses data, research, superior organization and graphics to capture the profound impacts of technology on life and work. Comprehensive and excellent.

**Third Place**

**Spectator, Fredonia**

Oslyn Darrell-Sterbak

The two pieces dealing with study abroad lessons amid the pandemic were informative, had a good message and were nicely done.

**Design**

**First Place**

**Spectator, Fredonia**

This entry had the best covers of any entry. I also liked the layout, the use of good, live-action photos and good page design that led to easy reading through edition.

**Second Place**

**Horizon, Lynbrook**

Great covers; almost the best in class. The color use was interesting - could be distracting at times, but was not gaudy. Lots of very topical stories, good design, well-written headlines and use of photos and graphical.

**Third Place**

**Manor Ink, Livingston Manor**

Alexis Raynor

Excellent and unique sports feature topic. Writer Nicoles Cortese successfully compares the Yankees with his high school football team. Great use of quotes. Nice job! Best sports column/feature entry in this competitive judging category.

**Photography**

**First Place**

**Spectator, Fredonia**

Isaac Williams

Excellent focus, plenty of emotion by identifiable subjects (faces showing), the image fills the screen (and the vertical page layout) and it matches the accompanying story on cell phone policy.

**Second Place**

**Horizon, Lynbrook**

Viktoriia Sokolenko has provided the best sports story in this category and, according to this judge, it’s not even close. Excellent sports profile. Great use of quotes from multiple sources that flow well within the story.

**Third Place**

**The Phoenix, Uniondale**

Nick Cortese

Excellent and unique sports feature topic. Writer Nicoles Cortese successfully compares the Yankees with his high school football team. Great use of quotes. Nice job! Best sports column/feature entry in this competitive judging category.

**Best Web Site**

**First Place**

**Tower, Dobbs Ferry**

Robust, excellent news site for the Tower community. Well organized, easy to navigate, clean, intuitive layout. Lots of great content for the basics (news, sports, web exclusives) but with added “wish list” sections/tabs that include opinion and multimedia (loved the YouTube content). Great job.

**Second Place**

**The Courant, Commack**

Clean, well organized, easy to navigate, clean, intuitive layout. Lots of great content for the basics (news, sports, web exclusives) but with added “wish list” sections/tabs that include opinion and multimedia (loved the YouTube content). Great job.

**Third Place**

**Horizon, Lynbrook**

Really nice standalone news site for the school community.

**Honorable Mention**

**Tower, Dobbs Ferry**

Victoria Sokolokens has provided the best sports story in this category and, according to this judge, it’s not even close. Excellent sports profile. Great use of quotes from multiple sources that flow well within the story.

**Second Place**

**The Spectator, Fredonia**

Isaac Williams

Best of the sports photos entered in this category - great job!

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Mackenzie Ward was ready when it happened on her hand. Nice, sharp feature photo.

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2022 BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

The Ithacan
The Impact

The judges said: “For the first time in the history of the contest, the judges awarded a tie...
Earned 65 total contest points, The Ithacan and The Impact (Mercy College) share top honors.
The Impact won first-place awards for general excellence, photography, and best web site.
The judges said, “The Impact is clearly one of the best, if not the best publications in the competition. Good story selection, clean design, campus-focused opinion stories, and best use of photos.”
The Ithacan won first-place awards for general excellence, photography, and best web site.
The judges said, “The Ithacan is clearly one of the best, if not the best publications in the competition. Good story selection, clean design, campus-focused opinion stories, and best use of photos.”

Congratulations to all the entrants in the college newspaper contest!

SECOND PLACE

The Chronicle, Albany
Clean with large strong photos at the beginning of the paper - layout fall down as reader moves through the paper. Stronger campus focus would be good. Sports stories are the strongest after page one.

THIRD PLACE

The Hill News, Canton
Impressive mix of local, local and national stories relevant to SLU students. Breadth of subjects covered makes for a good read. Well thought out design. Some of the staff photos are among the best in the competition.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Leader, Fredonia
The Leader is a magazine format, which kind of makes it a duck out of water in this contest. But it has important stories for the campus, great photos, and variety. Story organization is a bit weird because of the magazine format and parts of it look on the cartoonish side. Still, a pretty good publication.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE

The Impact, Dobbs Ferry
Maleek Munroe
The writer does an excellent job of putting humans into a fire story. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Bona Venture, Olean
Cassidey Kavathas
This is a story about mechanical and other failures on a big trip to a basketball tournament. It included speeding, fires, and more. As I was reading I went back and fourth wondering if too much ado had been made of this or not enough. It would have helped to have a summary paragraph high in the story summarizing all the failures that took place.

THIRD PLACE

The Daily Orange, Syracuse
Jana Seal
This is a good story about how an intra-campus transportation system has been altered and how it affected students on the hinterland of the campus.

HONORABLE MENTION

Cardinal Points, Plattsburgh
Alessandra Sidorova
This is a story about a canceled comedy show based on content of the expected jokes. With little response from university officials other than the show had been canceled and a general statement as to why, the author was able to gather a lot of information about campus and comedic reaction to the cancellation.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE

Empire State Tribune, New York
Matthew Peterson Relevant and timely.

SECOND PLACE

Cardinal Points, Plattsburgh
Justin O’Connor Interesting, plenty of sources, held my attention.

THIRD PLACE

The Daily Orange, Syracuse
Jana Seal Interesting, timely, and could be part of a much larger discussion.

HONORABLE MENTION

Vanguard, Brooklyn
Owen Russell Good profile piece with a personal link.

COLUMN

FIRST PLACE

The Impact, Dobbs Ferry
James Tiedemann
Interesting, well-written look back at a World War II veteran with the same family name - some research, perspective, and emotion weave a fun read.

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca
Leila Marcillo-Gomez
Nature's glow with a compelling semi-action human element - a quality capture by Leila Marcillo-Gomez. Image has composition and focus, the detail is in the front per-
Congrats
To all of our winners!

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST 2022