

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
2023 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



*Celebrating*  
Newspaper Excellence



# And the Winners Are...

## NEWSPAPERS OF THE YEAR

**The Times Union**  
**The Highlands Current**

### STUART C. DORMAN AWARD

*Editorial Excellence*  
**The Times Union**

### JOHN J. EVANS AWARD

*Advertising Excellence*  
**Dan's Paper**

### 2023 WRITER OF THE YEAR

**Kirstyn Brendlen**  
**The Brooklyn Paper**

### 2023 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR

**Lauren Feldman**  
**The Nassau Observer**

### 2023 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

**Adam Shinder**  
**The Daily Gazette**

### 2023 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

**Ross Corsair**  
**The Highlands Current**

### PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

**The Southampton Press-Eastern — First Place, Division 1**  
**The Northport Observer — First Place, Division 2**

### BEST FRONT PAGE

**Queens Chronicle — First Place, Division 1**  
**The Southampton Press - Western — First Place, Division 2**

### BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

**The Riverdale Press — First Place**  
**The Northport Observer — Second Place**  
**The Village Sun — Third Place**

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

**The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — First Place**  
**The East Hampton Press — Second Place**  
**Sag Harbor Express — Third Place**

### OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

**The Southampton Press - Western — First Place**  
**The East Hampton Press — Second Place**  
**Sag Harbor Express — Third Place**

### ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

**Dan's Papers — First Place**  
**Nassau Herald — Second Place**  
**The News-Review — Third Place**  
**Rockville Centre Herald — Honorable Mention**

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## PHOTO CREDITS

### FRONT COVER

**TOP: Misty run:** Lori Van Buren,

The Times Union

**Healing Wall:** Walter Karling,

Queens Chronicle

**Swimming:** Renea Lauck,

East Aurora Advertiser

### BACK COVER

**Earth Day boat:** Ross Corsair,

Highlands Current

**Concert:** Dana Shaw,

Sag Harbor Express

**Sports celebration:** Rob Cuni,

Smithtown News

**Mom and son:** Iryna Shkurhan,

amNew York Metro

# About the 2023 Better Newspaper Contest ...

142 newspapers submitted 2,530 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.

379 awards were presented during NYPA's Spring Conference April 26-27, 2024.

The entries were judged by members of the Tennessee 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:

#### Schneps Media Group — 440 points

Schneps Media Group earned 440 total contest points - 14 first-place awards; 10 second-place awards and 12 third-place awards. First-place awards include Writer of the Year, Advertising Excellence, Best News Story, Best Feature Story and Best Column.

#### Express News Group — 415 points

The Express News Group earned 415 total contest points including 10 first-place awards, 14 second place awards, and 15 third place awards. First-place awards include Past President's Award for General Excellence, Best Front Page, Photographic Excellence, Design Excellence, Best Feature Story and Best Sports Action Photo.

#### Times Beacon Newspapers — 175 points

Times Beacon Record earned 175 total contest points including six first-place awards, two-second place awards and seven third-place awards. First place awards include Feature Photo, Sports Action Photo and Classified Advertising.

#### North Shore News Group — 160 points

The North Shore News Group earned 160 total contest points including four first-place awards, six second-place awards and four third-place awards. They won Best Innovative Ad Project, Past President's Award for General Excellence, and several photography awards.

#### Herald Community Newspapers — 155 points

The Herald Community Newspapers earned 155 total contest points including four first-place awards, six second-place awards and three third-place awards. First-place awards include Best Editorial Page, Coverage of Religion, Best Historical or Anniversary Section and Best Special Section Cover.

## THE TOP FIVE — SINGLE FLAG NEWSPAPERS

### TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

#### The Highlands Current — 185 points

#### The Times Union — 185 points

#### Queens Chronicle — 140 points

#### Dan's Papers — 125 points

#### East Hampton Press — 120 points

#### amNew York Metro — 110 points

## THE TOP FIVE — TOTAL EDITORIAL POINTS

#### The Times Union — 150 points

#### Queens Chronicle — 140 points

#### The Highlands Current — 125 points

#### The East Hampton Press — 110 points

#### The Adirondack Explorer — 90 points

## THE TOP FIVE — TOTAL ADVERTISING POINTS

#### Dan's Paper — 60 points

#### The Village Times Herald — 50 points

#### The Highlands Current — 45 points

#### The Suffolk Times — 45 points

#### Saratoga Today — 40 points

#### North Country This Week — 40 points



# Most competitive categories ...



## CATEGORY 32 — FEATURE STORY

*Congratulations to the first-place winners in the most competitive category in the contest!*

- Division 1 ..... Denise Civiletti, *Riverheadlocal.com*
- Division 2 ..... Brendan Mc Donough, *The Daily News*
- Division 3 ..... Michael Turton, *The Highlands Current*
- Division 4 ..... Ximena Del Cerro, *The Brooklyn Paper*
- Division 5 ..... Mayra Kalaora, *Bronx Times Reporter and Bronx Times*
- Division 6 ..... Peter Boody, *The Southampton Press-Western*

## CATEGORY 31 — NEWS STORY

*The quality of the entries in this category was outstanding — congratulations to:*

- Division 1 ..... Lincoln Anderson, *Village Sun*
- Division 2 ..... Gwendolyn Craig, *The Adirondack Explorer*
- Division 3 ..... Gabriele Holtermann, *Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic*
- Division 4 ..... Phillip Pantuso, *The Times Union*

## CATEGORY 40 — FEATURE PHOTO(S)

*The judges had a particularly difficult time with this competitive category — congratulations to:*

- Division 1 ..... Mark Gutman, *The Daily News*
- Division 2 ..... Martin Stone, *The Northport Observer*
- Division 3 ..... Steven Zait, *The Times of Middle Country*

## CATEGORY 33 — BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

*Many fine examples of excellent research and writing — congratulations to:*

- Division 1: ..... Emily Sachar, Andrew Checchia, Robin Cherry, *The Daily Catch*
- Division 2: ..... Michael Dorgan, Iryna Shkurhan, Ethan Stark-Miller, *amNewYork Metro*

## CATEGORY 41 — SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

*Catching the right image at the right time — congratulations to:*

- Division 1 ..... Steven Zaitz, *The Times of Huntington*
- Division 2 ..... Marianne Barnett, *The East Hampton Press*
- Division 3: ..... Steven Zaitz, *The Times of Huntington*

## CATEGORY 36 — BEST COLUMN

*Providing perspective... making the reader think, understand and care — congratulations to:*

- Division 1 ..... Andy Flynn, *Lake Placid News*
- Division 2: ..... Robert Scott, *Williston Times*
- Division 3: ..... ET Rodriguez, *Bronx Times Reporter and Bronx Times*

## CATEGORY 30 — SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

*Great coverage of a single news event — congratulations to:*

- Division 1 ..... Emily Sachar, Victor Feldman, Ruby Rayner-Haselkorn, *The Daily Catch*
- Division 2 ..... Ken Sturtz, *The Palladium Times*
- Division 3 ..... Brendan J. Lyons, Lauren Stanforth, Steve Hughes, *Times Union*

# Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2023

*There were 18 entries in this category*



## FIRST PLACE:

### LAUREN FELDMAN, THE NASSAU OBSERVER

Lauren started with Anton Media Group in December 2022 as the editor for the *Nassau Observer*. She oversees all editorial in the Nassau Observer, which includes attending events and doing interviews with people who are part of the story. She is also responsible for getting the paper put together for printing, which includes working with the Production Department and the page designer assigned to her paper. "Being an editor and journalist for community news," she said, "offers me the unique chance to enter the world of my readers, even if only briefly, and learn about what they value, fight for, and believe in. These past 12 months they have shared their stories with me, and I in turn have shared these stories with the community."

Lauren, born and raised on Long Island, graduated from Dickinson College in 2021 with a degree in English and Creative Writing. She earned her master's degree media and international development in 2022 from the University of East Anglia overseas in the UK.

The judges said: *Lauren's stories were well written and with attention-grabbing ledes and accompanied by plenty of solid photos.*



## SECOND PLACE:

### ALEX KIELAR, SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

As a staff writer at the Sullivan County Democrat, Alex has covered a number of stories, from county and town government to breaking news, sports and feature stories. He also contributed to the Democrat's 50-plus special sections, including the graduation spread in the paper's biggest issue of the year.

"Since joining the Sullivan County Democrat in March of 2023, I have strived to bring attention to important topics and highlight the stories of the community," he said. "Through my work, I have aimed to provide accurate and objective reporting to inform and engage readers. Along with writing all my articles, I have also learned the ins and outs of getting the best photos possible at every event I have covered. I have always been a writer first, but photography has begun to be an avenue to improve upon through my role."

Alex grew up in Pennsylvania and has been a freelance sportswriter since high school graduation. He covered the Scranton/Wilkes Barre Railriders, the Yankees Triple A team, for the Pinstriped Prospects, a website covering the New York Yankees' minor league system. He attended Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, where he was involved with the student newspaper and got his first taste of reporting on a small-scale level. Alex would write numerous sports stories and feature pieces and ended his freshman year being appointed an assistant sports editor. After two years at Wilkes, Alex transferred to Lackawanna College's branch campus in Hawley, PA where he graduated with an Associate's Degree in Sports Management in the Spring of 2021.

The judges said: *"Well written, good coverage"*



## THIRD PLACE:

### KRISTEN GUGLIELMO, QUEENS CHRONICLE

Kristen Guglielmo is the editor whose primary responsibilities are covering South Queens and education issues boroughwide for the Queens Chronicle, though her reporting goes well beyond that. She covers everything from government and crime to changing demographics to the performing arts and new books. Kristen pursued her passion for storytelling at CUNY Baruch College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in journalism in December 2019. Prior to her current position, she delved into the world of freelance writing and tutoring, honing her skills and building a strong foundation. In her free time, she enjoys reading and writing contemporary fiction and playing guitar.

The judges said: *"Well written with interesting topics"*

# Excellence Awards



## PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN EDITION**

**SOUTHAMPTON**

This newspaper is intensely local from the front of the book to the back of the book. Strong headlines that hook readers into stories. Great art, color and content. *The Southampton Press* reflects the soul of its community. This entry is the best in a highly competitive division. Well done.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**

**EAST HAMPTON**

This paper has a clean look with some nice inside pages that are clearly designated. Newsy from front to back. Quality ads that attract the eye.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE SUFFOLK TIMES**

**MATTITUCK**

This newspaper distinguishes itself through its news coverage and clear reporting. Nice layouts and enticing headlines and photos. This is a great newspaper.

## PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER**

**NORTHPORT**

Beautiful newspaper with great content. Solid reporting and concise writing rich in human elements. Nicely designed. This newspaper provides a strong editorial voice for its audience. Engaging ads.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE RIVERDALE PRESS**

**RIVERDALE**

A strong newspaper with rich and newsy content from front to back. We enjoyed an engaging editorial page and eye-catching front pages.

### THIRD PLACE

**QUEENS CHRONICLE**

**QUEENS**

*The Queens Chronicle* delivers strong news content that is supported by engaging advertisements. Good use of photos make for an elegantly designed newspaper.

## "ROOKIE" REPORTER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

**THE NASSAU OBSERVER**

**HICKSVILLE**

*Lauren Feldman*

Her leads grab the reader's attention. Solid writing and attentive reporting.

### SECOND PLACE

**SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT**

**CALICOON**

*Alex Kielar*

Good writing, clear, concise, engaging.

### THIRD PLACE

**QUEENS CHRONICLE**

**QUEENS**

*Kristen Guglielmo*

Good, solid writing and reporting, with interesting topics.

## WRITER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

**THE BROOKLYN PAPER**

**BROOKLYN**

*Kirstyn Brendlen*

Great stories. Her style of writing makes you feel like you are part of each of her stories. Her story spotlighting memory loss was very informative, inspirational and heart-warming. The article titled 'A fire and a foreclosure' raises eyebrows about the building going down in flames that was facing financial jeopardy. Very good job of reporting and writing. In all five articles, Kirstyn demonstrates a nice mix of investigative journalism and thought-provoking questions.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**

**EAST HAMPTON**

*Michael Wright*

Very well-written and documented stories about local issues facing the community. His writing and reporting style is no doubt a reflection of the passion and empathy he has for his readership and the community he serves. His writings capture a wide variety of individual stories that are starting to disappear. These are the kind of stories Americans love to read. Great job.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE EXAMINER**

**MOUNT KISCO**

*Adam Stone*

Fantastic investigative reporting. The writer takes a deep, inside look at a tragic story of a local woman stonewalled by a local corporate giant.

## SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

**DAILY GAZETTE**

**SCHENECTADY**

*Adam Shinder*

I think this writer's work shows a lot of attention to detail. The leads are strong and the writer communicates essential information to the readers, explaining the details of the sport.

### SECOND PLACE

**NIAGARA GAZETTE**

**NIAGARA**

*Nick Sabato*

This writer is a very good storyteller. After reading the lead to the Roy Kinyon story I thought I was there in the room. Good job.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON**

**HUNTINGTON**

*Steven Zaitz*

This writer does a good job of putting the reader into the action. And I like that he doesn't take 20 words to say what he can say in 10. I liked his work very much.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**LONG BEACH HERALD**

**LONG BEACH**

*Tony Bellissimo*

### HONORABLE MENTION

**SOUTHAMPTON PRESS**

**WESTERN**

## PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

*Ross Corsair*

This 2023 portfolio shows that the photographer can find great photographs in a variety of assignments. This is one of the most important skills among newspaper photographers. The judges noted that not one photograph stood out because almost all of them are equal in quality. The judges' favorite photographs include St. Patrick's Day parade, notable for how well the young person is framed between two flags and how the red beret and the red in the flag ties the elements of the photograph together; the portrait of the firefighters and that featuring 10 people in one good photograph is a near miraculous feat; and the young ballplayer being encouraged. You can sense every bit of that encouragement. It's a beautiful moment. His photographs are exceptional in quality and variety. These photographs show off the wonderful moments in a community and that makes for great photojournalism.

### SECOND PLACE

**SAG HARBOR EXPRESS**

**SAG HARBOR**

*Dana Shaw*

The first thing the judges noticed about her work is how she is everywhere and shooting everything. The judges, a group of seasoned news photographers, couldn't believe that one photographer can be at so many assignments and were duly impressed. The judges' favorite photos include the fire breather, squirrel leaping onto a chair, and the mail carrier. The photograph of the mail carrier is beautiful in showing how one person can have a big impression in a community. It's a story in a single photograph, a feat that even the most veteran photographers have difficulty achieving.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON STAR**

**EAST HAMPTON**

*Durell Godfrey*

This work is charming and charismatic. The judges' favorite photos include the group slip-and-slide, lifeguards on the beach, and the child playing with rubber ducks in

the puddle. What makes the slip-and-slide photo compelling is the ability to see almost every person's face and expression among a large group of people. The photograph is dripping, pun intended, with excitement.

## BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**QUEENS CHRONICLE**

**QUEENS**

*Jan Schulman and Joseph Berni*

These entries made the best use of graphics and photo illustrations on the cover of any entry in the category. The three cover stories are a good mix of news, breaking news and issues.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON**

**HUNTINGTON**

The decision to use sports photos on the cover creates opportunities for compelling photos. The promo package is consistently clean and easy to read.

### THIRD PLACE

**GAY CITY NEWS**

**NEW YORK**

*Matt Tracy, Donna Aceto and Leah Mitch*

This newspaper has a very clean design. Its headlines, photos and layout worked well together to provide even more impact for story topics.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE BROOKLYN PAPER**

**BROOKLYN**

*Aidan Graham, Kirstyn Brendlen and Leah Mitch*

These covers had strong headlines and unique photos. I think I would enjoy reading this paper each week.

## BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON**

**PRESS-WESTERN EDITION**

**WESTHAMPTON BEACH**

The designer gives the reader many entry points to the page and the covers consistently show strong design elements. There is a good mix of news and feature stories and the photo choices are strong, providing impactful photos on the page.

### SECOND PLACE

**LAKE PLACID NEWS**

**LAKE PLACID**

*Andy Flynn*

The front-page designer uses creativity well. The cover of mug shots for Community Day was compelling. The use of photos is outstanding. The reader can follow the design well.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**

**EAST HAMPTON**

This section has a consistently clean design. There are good decisions being made on story selection and the photos make a big impact.

# Writer of the Year, 2023

There were 41 entries in this category



## FIRST PLACE:

### KIRSTYN BRENDELLEN, THE BROOKLYN PAPER

A New Jersey native and enthusiast, Kirstyn is *Brooklyn Paper's* digital editor and a reporter covering northern Brooklyn from Greenpoint to Gowanus. She has twice before been named NYPA Writer of the Year. Kirstyn is a New Jersey native and enthusiast.

The judges said: *"Great stories. Kirstyn's style of writing makes you feel a part of each of her stories. Her story spotlighting memory loss was very informative, inspirational and heart-warming. The article titled 'A fire and a foreclosure' raises eyebrows about the building going down in flames that was facing financial jeopardy. Very well done job of reporting and writing. In all five articles, Kirstyn demonstrates a nice mix of investigative journalism and thought provoking questions."*



## SECOND PLACE:

### MICHAEL WRIGHT, THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

Michael Wright has been a reporter for the *Press and Express* newspapers for 24 years. He currently covers East Hampton Town and Village governments, environmental and historic preservation, the housing crisis and the burgeoning offshore wind industry. He also writes a bi-weekly outdoors column "In The Field" that examines regulations on the fishing industry, the health of fish stocks and the evolving fishing communities on the South Fork.

The judges said: *"Very well written and documented stories about local issues facing the community. Michael's writing and reporting style is no question a reflection of the passion and empathy he has for his readership and community he serves. His writings capture a wide variety of individual stories that are starting to disappear on newsprint across the country. These are the kind of stories Americans love to read about. Great job, Michael."*



## THIRD PLACE:

### ADAM STONE, THE EXAMINER

Adam Stone founded the Examiner Media newspaper group in 2007, following more than six years of experience as a community news beat reporter. He's been recognized by the New York Press Association for his columns, editorials, news reporting, and sports features.

In 2022, Stone launched Stone's Throw, a weekly column that blends in-depth news reporting, first-person opinion writing, deep-dive features, and investigative journalism.

The column focuses on putting local human faces on national issues, exploring topics of broad importance and connecting them to the *Examiner* coverage area in Westchester and Putnam counties in New York's lower Hudson Valley.



The judges said: *"Fantastic investigative reporting. Adam Stone takes a deep, inside look at a tragic story of a local woman stonewalled by a local, corporate giant."*



# Excellence Awards

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

### FIRST PLACE

**THE RIVERDALE PRESS**  
RIVERDALE

*Gary Larkin and Michael Hinman*  
The Editorial section is diverse, eye-catching, and well-balanced in design. Topics are relevant to readers, well-written, and provide a wide variety of topics of interest.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER**  
NORTHPORT

The editorial section was well designed and balanced for user readability. The content was relevant to readership and provided an excellent platform for community engagement.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE VILLAGE SUN**  
NEW YORK

*Lincoln Anderson, Kate Walter, Marcella Durand and Gayle Kirschenbaum*

I appreciate the style and overall design of these editorials. The topics were relevant to the community and area and well written.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**WILLISTON TIMES**  
WILLISTON PARK

The typography chosen for these editorials is a bit small and hinders readability, but the layout and design are well executed. The columns are well-written.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

### FIRST PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN EDITION**  
SOUTHAMPTON

The judges were highly impressed with the quality and abundance of photography presented throughout the paper. Standout photographs for the July 6 edition include 77th Powwow on A1, sports front on A23, and Garden Ramble on R1. In the Sept. 7 edition, the best photos are High Stepping on A1, 4th of July parade on A21, sports front of A26, R1. The judges found the Sept. 7 A23 sports front to be exceptional. Special mention goes to the creative use of cutout photographs, which can be tricky in terms of maintaining the integrity of a photograph, but the paper did a fine job using cutouts to add visual depth to the pages. The July 6 stories on bees and libraries are the best examples of what this newspaper's photography accomplishes, and what many news organizations strive for: enriching a reader's experience by complementing excellent photography with great design.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**  
EAST HAMPTON

The judges were impressed by the hard news photography on the front page of the July 20 paper. It is compelling work showing the con-

flict between protesters and law enforcement. Other great photographs include Soldier Ride Returns on A17 and the triathlon on pages A20, 22, and 23. For the Sept. 21 paper, the Free Life lead photo is beautiful even at 53 years old.

### THIRD PLACE

**SAG HARBOR EXPRESS**  
SAG HARBOR

The judges enjoyed the HarborFrost photos of the Feb. 9 edition, and would have liked to see even more space devoted to the photos! The Class of 2023 photos in the June 29 edition were well-done.

## OVERALL DESIGN

### EXCELLENCE

#### FIRST PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-WESTERN EDITION**

**WESTHAMPTON BEACH**  
*Sara Mannino Kent*

Love the typography and design of this publication. There were many entries that were super well done, but this one is the best. The ad team hit an upper-deck homer with its messaging and design.

#### SECOND PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**  
EAST HAMPTON

*Sara Mannino Kent*  
Great use of photos and laid out beautifully across all sections and ads.

#### THIRD PLACE

**SAG HARBOR EXPRESS**  
SAG HARBOR

*Sara Mannino Kent*  
Beautiful sections with inviting pictures. Great layouts. Different where it counts, easy on the eyes, classy.

## ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

#### FIRST PLACE

**DAN'S PAPERS**  
BRIDGEHAMPTON  
*Stephanie Bitis and Marcos Ramos*

Beautiful entries

#### SECOND PLACE

**NASSAU HERALD**  
LAWRENCE

Good special section. Loved the Dance Workshop ad design. The Christmas wrapping paper idea is a good one.

#### THIRD PLACE

**THE NEWS-REVIEW**  
RIVERHEAD

Strong classified advertising section. Liked use of white space. Also refreshing to see a publication without agency advertising.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD**  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Loved your breast cancer awareness section. Great design and consistency.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### FIRST PLACE

**SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER**  
SHELTER ISLAND

*Julie Lane and Ambrose Clancy*  
This community's Medicaid population is small, but never mind! The staff went after a crazy bureaucratic nightmare to probe, report and hammer on government not doing its job for a vulnerable population. This series showed persistence — the consistent pressure and exposure likely was the fuel that heated up bureaucrats' backends to get prescription service restored to the elderly and low-income. Congratulations on this set of stories which were thoroughly reported and well edited.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE EXAMINER**  
MOUNT KISCO

*Adam Stone*  
This writer is a pitbull on steroids!

### THIRD PLACE

**PORT TIMES-RECORD**  
PORT JEFFERSON

You can't beat a little "outrage" media coverage to make public officials change their tune ASAP. The power of the press and people is STRONG!

## BEST NEWS WEB SITE

### FIRST PLACE

**CITY & STATE**  
NEW YORK

This website has a clean design with an obvious and well-constructed hierarchy. It loads quickly and is easy to navigate.

### SECOND PLACE

**AMNEWYORK METRO**  
NEW YORK

This is a creative and dynamic website with a bold design. The inclusion of videos and inline photos in stories adds depth to the reader's experience.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE ITHACA VOICE**  
ITHACA

This website has a very clean design that is simple and easy to navigate.

## INVESTIGATIVE/IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**NIAGARA GAZETTE**  
NIAGARA

*Mark Scheer*  
This series of entries includes reporting that goes well beyond basic reporting. The stories include well-documented facts and good use of the Freedom of Information Act. The stories also clearly explain the roles of the Western Regional OTB to the reader, emphasizing the importance of what's being reported. The stories also include great detail and real reporting effort. It's clear this reporter went above and beyond to get the facts. Well done.

## SECOND PLACE

**THE BATAVIAN**  
BATAVIA

*Joanne Beck*  
This entry includes extensive reporting on a local apartment development. The stories include great detail on information the community was likely very interested to learn, including the developments that took place over time. The reporter and the newsroom team clearly dove into this topic, covering it from the early stages and even through the final result. Bravo.

## THIRD PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON STAR**  
EAST HAMPTON

*Christine Sampson and Christopher Walsh*  
This entry includes compelling storytelling on top of in-depth investigating. I appreciate the multiple sides of the story covered in this series. Good use of the Freedom of Information Act, as well. Well done.

## HONORABLE MENTION

**THE BROOKLYN PAPER**  
BROOKLYN

*Kirstyn Brendlen*  
This story includes great detail and extensive reporting with figures, court documents and resident testimonies. Very well done.

## HONORABLE MENTION

**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**  
GHENT

*Deborah Lans*  
This series expertly includes quotes and first-person experiences with figures and data, making for a compelling investigative series. It also includes an introduction to the problem, as well as possible solutions. Very well done.

## HONORABLE MENTION

**THE DAILY CATCH**  
RED HOOK

*Emily Sachar*  
As one reader commented, this truly is fascinating coverage. Readers can tell a great deal of research effort and reporting went into this project. This seems like a gem of an investigative piece any community would certainly enjoy. Well done!

## INVESTIGATIVE/IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**TIMES UNION**  
ALBANY

*Josh Solomon*  
This entry breaks down a complex issue with clear reporting and considerable research. The series had a quantifiable, real-world impact and demonstrates strong investigative skills. Nice work.



# Sports Writer of the Year

There were 14 entries in this category



## FIRST PLACE:

### ADAM SHINDER, THE DAILY GAZETTE

Adam serves as the deputy director of content for The Daily Gazette Co.'s family of newspapers. In that role, beyond his own reporting, Shinder oversees the organization's sports department. Shinder primarily covers high school and college sports, and also plays a crucial role in the pagination of the company's print products. Shinder has worked with the company since 2019.

The judges said: "I think this writer's work shows a lot of attention to detail. The leads are strong and the writer communicates essential information to the readers, explaining the details of the sport."



## SECOND PLACE:

### NICK SABATO, NIAGARA GAZETTE

In addition to serving as sports editor for the *Niagara Gazette*, Nick Sabato writes on local issues and covers Niagara University sports and the Buffalo Bills.

The judges said: "This writer is a very good storyteller. After reading the lede to the Roy Kinyon story I thought I was there in the room. Good job."



## THIRD PLACE:

### STEVEN ZAITZ, THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON

Steven Zaitz has been a writer and a photographer for the Times Beacon Record family of newspapers since he moved to Suffolk County in 2019. He has covered everything from championship-level high school football, equestrian sports, polar plunges, to holiday craft fairs in the school gym - always endeavoring to find the interesting vantage point in each. As a boy, he consumed all the local New York papers, wrote a column for the high school monthly, and landed the highly coveted job of public address announcer for football and basketball games by junior year.

The judges said: "This writer does a good job of putting the reader into the action. And I like that he doesn't take 20 words to say what he can say in 10. I liked his work very much."





# Excellence Awards

## SECOND PLACE

DAN'S PAPERS  
BRIDGEHAMPTON

*Timothy Bolger*

This entry did a nice job shining light on an ongoing and previously unreported issue in this community. The results of the reporting illustrate its clear impact. Great work.

## THIRD PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE  
QUEENS

*Sophie Krichevsky*

This entry employs strong investigative skills and use of records to shine light on a topic of great importance to any community: voting integrity. Nice work.

## COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

WESTMORE NEWS

PORT CHESTER  
*Jananne Abel and Jeremiah Hassel*

Entries cover diverse current political issues in the community and are presented in a well-written, well-designed platform. Photos provide good supplemental material.

### SECOND PLACE

THE VILLAGE SUN  
NEW YORK

*Lincoln Anderson*

Articles are well articulated with accompanying photos that bring the story to life. Issues are relevant to the community. Reports are executed in an objective manner that truly empowers the reader to have a dynamic understanding of the issue(s) at hand.

### THIRD PLACE

NIAGARA GAZETTE  
NIAGARA

*Mark Scheer and Rick Pfeiffer*

Topics are relevant issues of community concern/interest. Reports are very well-written. Photographs provide a great supplement to the stories.

### HONORABLE MENTION

SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

SAG HARBOR

*Stephen J. Kotz*

Content is well-written. Reports are interesting and relevant to community issues and concerns.

## COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO  
NEW YORK

*Ben Brachfeld*

Great images that really supplement and bring the story to life. The overall design and readability is well-executed, and topics are relevant, interesting, and attention-grabbing.

### SECOND PLACE

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS  
NEW YORK

*Ariama Long*

Entries highlight relevant news for the community in a well-articulated manner. Photos provide good supplemental material to accompany article.

### THIRD PLACE

PORT TIMES-RECORD  
PORT JEFFERSON

*Raymond Janis and Lynn Hallarman*

Excellent layout. Reports are eye-catching and cover a variety of controversial local government topics.

### HONORABLE MENTION

WARWICK ADVERTISER

WARWICK

*Becca Tucker, Molly Colgan and Pamela Chergotis*

Topics are relevant to community and well written. Each report demonstrates the thoughtful and objective reporting of issues. The layout of section is executed well for easy readability.

## COVERAGE OF EDUCATION DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

PUTNAM COUNTY COURIER

CARMEL

*Eric Gross*

There were so many fantastic entries in this category. The paper stood out for maintaining attention to detail while juggling so many stories. Great job.

### SECOND PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Joey Asher, Jeff Simms,*

*Erin-Leigh Hoffman*

*and Mackenzie Boric*

A great look at a variety of topics. Hot button issues are always great, but I particularly enjoyed the approach to the BHS 50th Class Reunion.

### THIRD PLACE

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

Solid coverage and a brilliant take on the "back to school" story. Well done.

### HONORABLE MENTION

EAST MEADOW HERALD

EAST MEADOW

*Mallory Wilson*

## COVERAGE OF EDUCATION DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

POTSDAM

*Jimmy Lawton, Jeff Chudzinski and Matt Lindsey*

A solid selection and straightforward presentation. Great job.

### SECOND PLACE

THE PHOTO NEWS

MONROE

*Becca Tucker, Molly Colgan and Gail B. Hoffer-Loibl*

An in-depth look at complex issues in an appealing way. Very impressive.

### THIRD PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

*Kristen Guglielmo,*

*Deirdre Bardolf*

*and Sophie Krichevsky*

A thorough take on tough topics. Well done.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*David Ambro*

## COVERAGE OF BUSINESS, FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC NEWS

### FIRST PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

Good ledes, good photos and interesting topics.

### SECOND PLACE

DAN'S PAPERS

BRIDGEHAMPTON

*Claude Solnik, James Bernstein and Bernadette Starzee*

Great content, good photos and strong ledes.

### THIRD PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

*Peter Mastro Simone, Michael Gannon, Naeisha Rose, Ariella*

*Kissin and Sophie Krichevsky*

Plenty of photos and interesting topics

### HONORABLE MENTION

FIRE ISLAND NEWS

BAY SHORE

*Joey Macellaro, Skylar Epstein and Shoshanna McCollum*

## COVERAGE OF THE ARTS DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE SPOTLIGHT (DELMAR)

DELMAR

*Dave Abbott and Michael Hallisey*

Love the layout and the content! A true guide to entertainment in the community!

### SECOND PLACE

CORTLAND STANDARD

CORTLAND

*Lily Byrne*

I enjoyed reading how the writer makes the play relevant to what's happening in real life, and the graphics make it easy to know how to get tickets and how to participate.

### THIRD PLACE

CHELSEA COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW YORK

*Charli Battersby, Michael Musto, Puma Perl and Scott Stiffler*

I appreciate the connection of art to a nationwide discussion and issue of drag shows, and why they're important.

### HONORABLE MENTION

SMITHTOWN MESSENGER

SMITHTOWN

*Michael J. Reistetter*

## COVERAGE OF THE ARTS DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

*Jennifer Henn and*

*Annette Hinkle*

Beautiful layout and interesting stories!

### SECOND PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

*Kristen Guglielmo, Naeisha Rose,*

*Mark Lord and Michael Shain*

The catchy headlines and the nice, large photos make this a fun section to look at.

### THIRD PLACE

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND

BRONX TIMES

BRONX

*Camille Botello*

The photo and the headline 'Ghetto' Superstars definitely drew me in to this interesting story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

LAKE CHAMPLAIN WEEKLY

PLATTSBURGH

*Benjamin Pomerance*

## COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### FIRST PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

*Zachary Matson*

Excellent.

### SECOND PLACE

CITY & STATE

NEW YORK

*Peter Sterne*

Very unique reporting.

### THIRD PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

*Sophie Krichevsky, Naeisha Rose,*

*Deirdre Bardolf and Stephanie*

*Meditz*

Great local coverage.

# Photographer of the Year, 2023

There were 13 entries in this category



## FIRST 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 television. He has won five daytime Emmys, including one for camerawork.

The judges said: "Ross Corsair's 2023 portfolio shows that the photographer can find great photographs in a variety of assignments. This is one of the most important skills among newspaper photographers. The judges noted that not one photograph stood out because almost all of them are equal in quality. Corsairs' photographs are exceptional in quality and variety. These photographs show off the wonderful moments in a community and that makes for great photojournalism."



## SECOND PLACE:

### DANA SHAW, SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

Originally from Western Pennsylvania, Dana moved to the East End of Long Island in May of 1998 to work as the first full-time photographer at *The Southampton Press*. In 1999 she was promoted to photo editor. She earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Communications at Point Park University in Pittsburgh in 1989, where she met her husband, Joe Shaw. In 1989 she started career in journalism as an assistant editor/reporter/photographer for the weekly newspapers: *The Reynoldsville Star*, *The Sykesville Post Dispatch* and the *Brockway Record* and worked as reporter for the daily the *Punxsutawney Spirit* in Punxsutawney (home of the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil), Penn. While working for those papers she discovered she had a knack for photography. She then went on to the daily paper *The Leader Times* in Kittanning, PA., where she became their chief photographer. She has been married to Joe for 31 years in August. In her spare time she is a rescue and transport volunteer for the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center.

The judges said: "The first thing we noticed about Dana Shaw's work is how she is everywhere and shooting everything. The judges, a group of seasoned news photographers, couldn't believe that one photographer can be at so many assignments and were duly impressed. Our favorite photos include the fire breather, squirrel leaping onto a chair, and the mail carrier. The photograph of the mail carrier is beautiful in showing how one person can have a big impression in a community. It's a story in a single photograph, a feat that even the most veteran photographers have difficulty achieving."



## THIRD PLACE:

### DURELL GODFREY, THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

Durell Godfrey has worked as a photojournalist for *The East Hampton Star* for over 20 years. During that time she has photographed just about everything from celebrities to sunsets, sports to ballet performances, horse shows to house tours, political parties to whale watches, and many, many, many parades. If it holds still, she will take a picture of it. If it is moving, she and her camera will keep trying to get the shot.

Durell's photographs -- and her unique and thoughtful way of seeing the world -- serve as a chronicle of life in East Hampton, in 2023 and every year.



The judges said: "Durell Godfrey's work is charming and charismatic. The judges favorite photos include the group slip-and-slide, lifeguards on the beach, and the child playing with rubber ducks in the puddle. What makes the slip-and-slide photo compelling is the ability to see almost every person's face and expression among a large group of people. The photograph is dripping, pun intended, with excitement."



# Excellence Awards

## HONORABLE MENTION

**THE DAILY CATCH  
RED HOOK**

*Andrew Checchia,  
Ruth Oxenberg, Emily Sachar  
and Victor Feldman*

## COVERAGE OF HEALTH, HEALTH CARE & SCIENCE

### FIRST PLACE

**TIMES UNION**

**ALBANY**

*Rachel Silberstein*

Excellent coverage of an overlooked health issue in the U.S. The writer's experience in the dental field clearly gave her insight and deep knowledge of the issue. Deeply reported and written with authority that gives the reader confidence.

### SECOND PLACE

**CORTLAND STANDARD**

**CORTLAND**

*Margarett Mellott*

Personalizing nursing home care deficiencies with one family's story was done with sensitivity and thorough reporting. This writer knows how to frame health care issues, provide relevant detail and an appropriate number of sources, including records. The homelessness coverage keeps the spotlight on challenges facing service providers and some workable ways to meet this population's needs. A short, more newsy story on flavored tobacco shows that informative health care issue coverage can be done quickly and in compressed space.

### THIRD PLACE

**SAG HARBOR EXPRESS**

**SAG HARBOR**

*Michael Wright, Desirée Keegan,  
Kitty Merrill, Michelle Trauring,  
Cailin Riley and Stephen Kotz*

This set of stories was well-reported with a mix of relevant sources; the package covered a nice range of angles on the pandemic. I especially liked the schools coverage since learning loss has been such a hot topic around the country.

## HEADLINE WRITING

### FIRST PLACE

**QUEENS CHRONICLE**

**QUEENS**

*Peter C. Mastro Simone, Sophie Krichevsky and Michael Gannon*  
Editor showed good skill with cover stories with the small space given for headlines. Limited word-play on non-cover stories was good. Using money figures in headline always appeals to readers.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE PALLADIUM TIMES**

**OSWEGO**

*Charles Ellis*

Editor made a good decision to use

a quote as the headline for a news story. Headlines were consistently informative throughout the section.

### THIRD PLACE

**BAY NEWS & BROOKLYN GRAPHIC  
BROOKLYN**

*Aidan Graham, Kirstyn Brendlen  
and Leah Mitch*

Headlines do a solid job of conveying impact of story. Word-play shows strong headline skills.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE VILLAGER (NYC)**

**NEW YORK**

*Leah Mitch, Meaghan McGoldrick  
O'Neil and Robert Pozarycki*

Headlines are presented in a conversational tone that appeals to a lot of readers. Use of word-play in headlines works well here.

## COVERAGE OF CRIME, POLICE, COURTS

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON**

**PRESS-WESTERN EDITION**

**WESTHAMPTON BEACH**

*Tom Gogola and  
Brendan J. O'Reilly*

These stories represent great examples of bulldog-like investigation and follow through.

### SECOND PLACE

**CITY & STATE**

**NEW YORK**

*Rebecca C. Lewis  
and Peter Sterne*

The stories are well-researched, well-written and clearly explain a somewhat complex topic.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**

**EAST HAMPTON**

*Desirée Keegan, Michelle Trauring,  
Tom Gogola, Michael Wright  
and TE McMorrow*

This entry featured a nice variety of strong topics, deeply reported and well-told.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE**

**SARANAC LAKE**

*Lauren Yates and Aaron Marbone*

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE ITHACA VOICE**

**ITHACA**

*Judy Lucas and Matt Butler*

## COVERAGE OF CRIME, POLICE, COURTS

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**QUEENS CHRONICLE**

**QUEENS**

*Peter C. Mastro Simone, Michael Gannon and Naeisha Rose*

Excellent coverage! Every headline caught my eye, and every story kept my attention. Coverage was very concise — complete with photos — and very well written.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE RIVERDALE PRESS**

**RIVERDALE**

*Eric Harvey, Stacy Driks and  
Gary Larkin*

This shows overall excellent coverage in a variety of cases. The stories were well written and accompanied by art, making them even more appealing to the reader.

### THIRD PLACE

**LONG ISLAND PRESS**

**SYOSSET**

*Timothy Bolger*

These stories show excellent background and investigative work. They were well written and styled in a way that made me want to continue reading to the very end.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE WEST SIDE SPIRIT**

**NEW YORK**

*Keith Kelly*

### HONORABLE MENTION

**NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK**

**POTSDAM**

*Jeff Chudzinski*

## COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS/ POLITICS

### FIRST PLACE

**SMITHTOWN MESSENGER**

**SMITHTOWN**

*Michael J. Reistetter*

Wow. A fantastic look behind the curtains of a national scandal.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE RIVER REPORTER**

**NARROWSBURG**

*Ruby Rayner-Haselkorn  
and Pamela Chergotis*

Excellent coverage. The stories were educational and engaging. Very well done!

### THIRD PLACE

**TIMES UNION**

**ALBANY**

*Wendy Liberatore*

Very nice coverage following an election after a scandal. Nicely done!

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE VILLAGE SUN**

**NEW YORK**

*Lincoln Anderson, Mary Reinholz  
and Mason Leib*

Excellent coverage on a wide range of political topics!

## HISTORICAL, ANNIVERSARY, OR PROGRESS EDITIONS

### FIRST PLACE

**NASSAU HERALD**

**LAWRENCE**

*Jeffrey Bessen and Jeffrey Negrin*

Quality work all around. Lots of local voices made the content relatable — rabbis, students who travelled to Israel and those who serve in the IDF. Good use of photographs. The timeline was well designed and a nice addition.

### SECOND PLACE

**CITY & STATE**

**NEW YORK**

*Shantel Destra and Jeff Coltin*

This was well done from the powerful and eye-catching cover image to the comprehensive content.

### THIRD PLACE

**QUEENS CHRONICLE**

**QUEENS**

This publication gave me a great sense of the community and covered all the bases. Excellent work!

## COVERAGE OF RELIGION

### FIRST PLACE

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD**

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE**

*Daniel Offner*

This entry demonstrates both depth and variety in its religion coverage. Nice work.

### SECOND PLACE

**PRESS-REPUBLICAN**

**PLATTSBURGH**

*Robin Caudell*

The reporter demonstrates variety and thorough reporting in this entry. Nice work.

### THIRD PLACE

**WARWICK ADVERTISER**

**WARWICK**

*Bob Quinn and Mandy Coriston*

This entry features quality reporting on important topics in its religious community. Nice work.

## SPORTS FEATURE

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE**

**SARANAC LAKE**

*Parker O'Brien*

This wonderful feature takes an unforgettable moment in sports history and relates how one of the key figures in the "Miracle on Ice" moment revisited that the historic place that it occurred. The storytelling is so wonderful that, early in the article, it makes you feel as if you were there with this family experiencing what they were experiencing, especially in how that it tells of the children's reaction as they encountered different things in the hockey arena at Lake Placid.

This doesn't just give us a look through the eyes of Mike Eruzione but also through the eyes of those who are closest to him. It also gives us a glimpse of his human side by painting a wonderful picture of who he is in the present day as "Papa" and what it means to both he and his family now to be living with one that so many people see as a legend. It's well-sourced and simply a wonderful effort in storytelling. The writer nails it!

# BEST FRONT PAGE, 2023

## FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1

JAN SCHULMAN AND JOSEPH BERNI

THE QUEENS CHRONICLE

The judges said: "These entries made the best use of graphics and photo illustrations on the cover of any entry in the category. The three cover stories are a good mix of news, breaking news and issues."

## SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 1

THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON

The judges said: "The decision to use sports photos on the cover creates opportunities for compelling photos. The promos package is consistently clean and easy to read."

## THIRD PLACE — DIVISION 1

MATT TRACY, DONNA ACETO, AND LEAH MITCH

GAY CITY NEWS

The judges said: "This newspaper has a very clean-looking design. Its headlines, photos and design worked well together to provide even more impact of story topics."

## FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-WESTERN

The judges said: "The designer gives the reader many entry points to the page and the covers consistently show strong design elements. There is a good mix of news and feature stories and the photo choices are strong, providing impactful photos on the page."

## SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 2

ANDY FLYNN

LAKE PLACID NEWS

The judges said: "The front-page designer uses creativity well. The cover of mug shots for Community Day was compelling. The use of photos is outstanding. The reader can follow the design well."

## THIRD PLACE — DIVISION 2

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

The judges said: "This section has consistently clean design. There are good decisions being made on story selection and the photos make a big impact."





# Excellence Awards

## SECOND PLACE

UNION-SUN & JOURNAL

LOCKPORT

*Nick Sabato*

This is a really nice job of storytelling. The writer is a wordsmith. The storytelling is thorough but also very clear, and it is highly informational in its chronological unfolding. Nothing gets lost in translation, and one of the most wonderful elements of the story is the fact that it paints a really nice picture of the different sides of the “fighter” by offering feedback from his son, his friend and his former classmate. Kudos.

## THIRD PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-WESTERN EDITION

WESTHAMPTON BEACH

*Desirée Keegan*

This is well sourced and well written. It’s chock-full of information, giving legions of examples of the young man’s successful career in a collective sense and also in terms of individual moments of success. The writer spoke with his current head coach, former head coach, both of his parents, and the comments were varied. All of the commentary colorfully gives different perspectives involving the dynamic of his success, from the coaches’ breakdowns of his character and why he’s so successful, to his mother talking about how much the community’s support means to his family. It’s a very thorough and well-done profile piece, almost leaving you rooting for the underachiever to continue his success in the NFL.

## HONORABLE MENTION

CORTLAND STANDARD

CORTLAND

*Paul Cifonelli*

What a wonderful and thorough explanation of a newly implemented ranking system. This is not your typical feature story, but even with the immense amount of information included, it reads really well. It looks at it from so many different angles and gives an in-depth breakdown, not only looking at its impact in a current sense but also looking ahead to how coaches from other sports who have yet to be impacted by it view it. It’s well-sourced. I would imagine that this took a good while to complete, but it was time well-spent. Kudos.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE SOUTHAMPTON

PRESS-WESTERN EDITION

WESTHAMPTON BEACH

*Desirée Keegan*

This feature brings the emotional element of the excitement these teenage football players had in going through an on-field workout with a current and former NFL quarterback. The story is well-told including how it all unfolded, and the reaction of the players. It’s very

clean and clear. It is every athlete’s dream to be able to compete athletically with or against a professional. Well-done.

## SPORTS FEATURE

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE DAILY STAR

ONEONTA

*Drew Epstein*

What a great story! How many sports fanatics want to go on a trip like this with our family? The reporter allowed those involved to tell their own story and didn’t try to overwrite it. Very well done.

### SECOND PLACE

THE DAILY STAR

ONEONTA

*Nick Richardson*

I thought this reporter did a good job of describing what is, probably, the biggest day of McGraw’s life. Sometimes it is difficult to capture those emotions for the reader. Well done.

### THIRD PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Michael Turton*

I thought I knew this guy from the very first paragraph of the story. The reporter took me back in time and allowed me to experience the things Bozic went through. This is a good job.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Joey Asher*

I am really impressed with this reporter’s eye for story ideas. I don’t know that I would have thought about this as a story. Yet, this reporter explained the history of the group and the impact of the work it does, and it was great.

## SPORTS FEATURE

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

DAILY GAZETTE

SCHENECTADY

*Mike MacAdam*

Effortless storytelling as the writer sets the scene, then uses a variety of voices to recall the events of an emotional day for one school community. The reader is taken back to a moment 41 years ago, and how one memorable game helped begin the healing process after the tragic loss of a classmate.

### SECOND PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*Anthony Lifrieriny*

The writer does a very nice job of mixing the facts on how the DH rule came about with first-hand memories of its early stages, as well as honoring the significance of the Yankees’ first player to fill that role. Really nicely written story.

### THIRD PLACE

DAILY GAZETTE

SCHENECTADY

*Kyle Adams*

This is an example of a writer thinking outside the box and finding a unique angle on how sports can bring a group of people together to be more than just teammates. The meals that link the soccer team together into an extended family makes for a great feature angle and the writer allows those involved to tell their story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND

BRONX TIMES

BRONX

*Camille Botello*

## SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM

### PROJECT

#### FIRST PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

*Tim Rowland*

Wow. This entry is outstanding. Of course, affordable housing is a near-crisis just about everywhere, but wow. To read about what we typically think of as an “urban issue” in this part of the country was so, so informative. The package of reporting, concise, yet descriptive writing and killer design supported by photos and top-notch graphics made these stories easy to read and understand. It is crystal clear that this newspaper is passionate about their place. I thoroughly enjoyed the work in this project. The sourcing and data give me some great ideas on how to push coverage of this issue in our city.

#### SECOND PLACE

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

NEW YORK

*Damaso Reyes*

This was an eye-opener; excellent, excellent reporting, writing and presentation of a simmering issue that has implications for today. Superior sourcing; not sure another outlet could have reached into the community as this outlet did to expose the struggle. Very impressive effort.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE EXAMINER

MOUNT KISCO

*Adam Stone*

When this guy digs in, watch out. I bet the bureaucrats have to keep an extra pair of clean underwear at the office when his paper hits.

## SPORTS COVERAGE

### FIRST PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*Anthony Lifrieri*

This section felt like a true local sports section, highlighting prep sports with informative stories, good-size action photos and a really good blend of both male and female athletes.

### SECOND PLACE

AMHERST BEE

WILLIAMSVILLE

*Patrick Nagy*

From a clever presentation of its girls’ basketball all-star team (cleverly named All-Bee team) — complete with features on each player and a story explaining how the team was selected — to the day-to-day meat and potatoes coverage of local events, this section served up a nice variety of coverage.

### THIRD PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

*Drew Budd*

A really impressive mixture of outdoors events — why pickle ball continues to grow, features on sailing — plus coverage of more traditional sports — a local prep basketball team making the state Final Four — and even youth league coverage gave this section an impressive balance.

## SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE DAILY CATCH

RED HOOK

*Emily Sachar, Victor Feldman and Ruby Rayner-Haselkorn*

Comprehensive coverage of the barn that caught fire and the parties impacted by the loss. Impressive multimedia approach, making the work more interactive than a stand-alone article.

### SECOND PLACE

NIAGARA GAZETTE

NIAGARA

*Mark Scheer and Rick Pfeiffer*

The *Niagara Gazette* does a meticulous job of covering different sides of the same story. For an event that garnered national coverage, the publication dives deeper than many others did.

### THIRD PLACE

RIVERHEADLOCAL.COM

RIVERHEAD

*Denise Civiletti*

It was interesting to see not only the initial occurrence story, but a follow-up with the women who were impacted by the fire.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE DAILY CATCH

RED HOOK

*Emily Sachar*

Good use of community input and information gathering to paint a more complete picture of the flooding that occurred.

## SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE PALLADIUM TIMES

OSWEGO

*Ken Sturtz*

This piece uses descriptive detail to let readers know what went on in the courtroom, as well as providing necessary context to catch new readers up to speed on the case.

# Community Leadership Award

## FIRST PLACE

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

JULIE LANE AND AMBROSE CLANCY

The judges said: *"This community's Medicaid population is small, but never mind! The Shelter Island Reporter staff went after a crazy bureaucratic nightmare to probe, report and hammer on government not doing its job for a vulnerable population."*



## SECOND PLACE

THE EXAMINER

ADAM STONE

The judges said: *"Adam Stone is a pitbull on steroids!"*



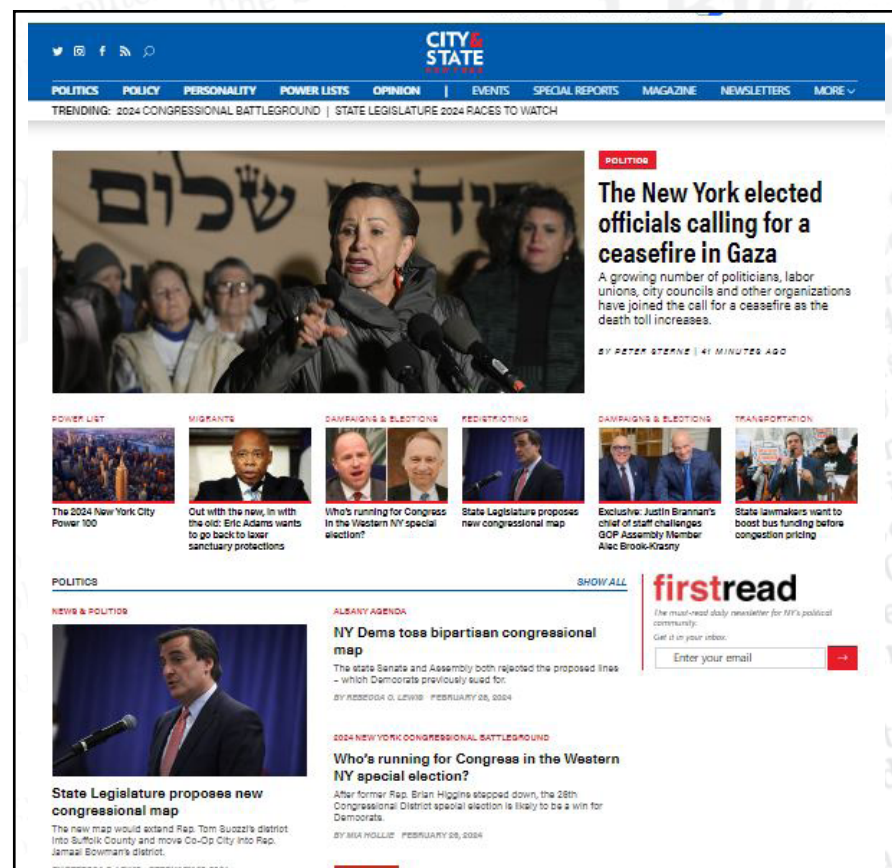
## THIRD PLACE

PORT TIMES RECORD

The judges said: *"You can't beat a little 'outrage' media coverage to make public officials change their tune ASAP. The power of the press and people is STRONG!"*



# Best News Website



## FIRST PLACE

CITY & STATE

The judges said: *"The City and State website has a clean design with an obvious and well-constructed hierarchy. It loads quickly and is easy to navigate."*



## SECOND PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

The judges said: *"Amny.com is a creative and dynamic website with a bold design. The inclusion of videos and inline photos in stories adds depth to the reader's experience."*



## THIRD PLACE

THE ITHACA VOICE

The judges said: *"The Ithaca Voice website has a very clean design that is simple and easy to navigate."*

# Excellence Awards



## SECOND PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

*Brendan J. O'Reilly*

This piece uses facts and case details to give readers a full picture of the abuse that took place.

## THIRD PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

*Stephen J. Kotz*

The story sheds light on an incident involving Native American travelers. It is a story that might oftentimes get overlooked, but the language in the article makes it apparent that the story has a significant relevance and impact to members in the broader community involved.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

*Kirstyn Brendlen and Lloyd Mitchell*

The photos and narrative of the coverage display the damage and destruction e-bike batteries can cause.

## SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Brendan J. Lyons, Lauren Stanforth and Steve Hughes*

Visuals used in this story help fully capture the essence of what happened from all angles.

### SECOND PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

*Dean Moses and Christian Murray*

Compelling photos with an attention-grabbing lede, leaving readers wanting to learn more about what unfolded.

### THIRD PLACE

ROSLYN TIMES

ROSLYN

*Robert Pelaez, Cameryn Oakes and Michael Lewis*

Strong images help create a strong feeling of empathy for the teens and the community that were impacted by the event.

## HONORABLE MENTION

NORWOOD NEWS

BRONX

*Sile Moloney*

## NEWS STORY

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE VILLAGE SUN

NEW YORK

*Lincoln Anderson*

Exhaustively researched and never uninteresting, this is not your average neighbor dispute story.

### SECOND PLACE

RIVERHEADLOCAL.COM

RIVERHEAD

*Alek Lewis*

Engagingly written using information pried out by public records request. Nicely done.

### THIRD PLACE

RIVERHEADLOCAL.COM

RIVERHEAD

*Alek Lewis*

This is news coverage that tells readers what's really going on in town. Good job.

## HONORABLE MENTION

RIVERHEADLOCAL.COM

RIVERHEAD

*Denise Civiletti*

Story goes beyond the dog and pony show with real reporting; this work is so important.

## NEWS STORY

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

*Gwendolyn Craig*

A community issue affecting folks right where they live. Very well sourced, including that there is no solution — yet.

### SECOND PLACE

THE DAILY NEWS

BATAVIA

*Mallory Diefenbach*

Comprehensive look at the state of hospitals, with good participation from local leaders in the field. Story explains what is going on in this vital industry.

### THIRD PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

*Desirée Keegan*

This reporting pushed to the edge of available knowledge. I'd like to read the next one. Very reader-oriented, with plenty of input. I'd like to read more as this plays out.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE SUFFOLK TIMES

MATTITUCK

*Melissa Azofeifa, Ana Borruto,*

*Chris Francescani,*

*Nicholas Grasso and Steve Wick*

Solid multiple stories, led by the follow-up report on the double fatality in the Southold community. Reporters turned in an impressive effort to explain who this couple was and what they had been going through.

## NEWS STORY

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

BAY NEWS & BROOKLYN GRAPHIC

BROOKLYN

*Gabriele Holtermann*

Really well-written feature on a beloved institution. Quote at the end was a perfect wrap to the story. Well done!

### SECOND PLACE

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND

BRONX TIMES

BRONX

*Camille Botello*

Great lede to draw in the reader. Great use of quotes to reinforce the setup paragraph. Very poignant quote to end the article. Nice use of a sub-head to break up the text; even on a short-form piece it works very well.

### THIRD PLACE

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND

BRONX TIMES

BRONX

*Emily Swanson*

This is a good community action piece on a small, but hot-button topic that is relatable to so many. Great use of art to accompany and reinforce the article as well as to break up the text.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

*Isabel Song Beer*

I really like that the writer leaves the question for the reader at the end of the piece as a way to spark curiosity in the reader, promoting independent thought.

## HONORABLE MENTION

PRESS-REPUBLICAN

PLATTSBURGH

*Ben Rowe*

Really strong lede on very timely subject matter. Very good way to take complex material and disseminate it into relatable material. Well done.

## NEWS STORY

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Phillip Pantuso*

A well-written, well-chronicled tragic story, gripping the reader's emotions all the more by detailing the family's struggles with rehabilitative care — having to travel halfway across the United States to seek appropriate treatment.

### SECOND PLACE

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

POTSDAM

*Jimmy Lawton*

Nice job with lede paragraphs, which articulate the contrasts of willingness of the victim to help the very person who ends up killing her — as readers eventually find out — randomly. Then comes a well-timed chronicling of Elizabeth Howell's main pursuits, her spirit of giving and her stellar reputation. Human-

izing the victim in a nutshell with attributes, without burying them later in the story, further contrasts the senselessness of her being killed.

### THIRD PLACE

PORT TIMES-RECORD

PORT JEFFERSON

*Raymond Janis*

A well-written learning experience for readers, outlining numerous aspects of obtaining basic power: making it affordable on a collective scale; making it "green;" combining both through competitive CCAs, which sources said would give municipalities more leverage; two municipalities with different approaches; lots of expert sources.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL

COOPERSTOWN

*Wriley Nelson*

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

RIVERHEADLOCAL.COM

RIVERHEAD

*Denise Civiletti*

What a heartwarming piece. This is the kind of story you wish you could write every single week and is what I consider 'fuel to keep going.' Brilliant work, full of life, and breezed by. Thank you so much for sharing.

### SECOND PLACE

THE ITHACA VOICE

ITHACA

*Matt Butler*

Excellent attention to detail while keeping the narrative alive and well through the turns of the tale. True crime and pure journalism personified. Excellent work!

### THIRD PLACE

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

SHELTER ISLAND

*David Brush*

Very clever idea, written with an understated and appropriately used sense of humor throughout. Humanizing the officers and the jail itself is a unique perspective to take, and I genuinely hope readers responded positively to this article.

## HONORABLE MENTION

LAKE PLACID NEWS

LAKE PLACID

*Lauren Yates*

Outstanding and interesting piece on a local icon; this is truly local journalism you will not find anywhere else. Great job.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE ITHACA VOICE

ITHACA

*Jimmy Jordan*

A complex story with thorough investigation and a clear presentation of both sides with no biases. Incredibly done; kudos!

## HONORABLE MENTION

GLEN COVE-OYSTER BAY RECORD

PILOT

GLEN COVE

*Jennifer Corr*

This is a precious and genuine idea that was executed beautifully. I will likely be 'borrowing' this concept.



# Investigative/In-Depth Reporting 2023

**DIVISION 1**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**NIAGARA GAZETTE**  
**MARK SCHEER**

## WESTERN REGIONAL OTB

The judges said: "This series of entries includes reporting that goes well beyond basic reporting. The stories include well-documented facts and good use of the Freedom of Information Act. The stories also clearly explain the roles of the Western Regional OTB to the reader, emphasizing the importance of what's being reported. The stories also include great detail and real reporting effort. It's clear this reporter went above and beyond to get the facts. Well done."

**SECOND PLACE**  
**THE BATAVIAN**  
**JOANNE BECK**

## ELLICOTT STATION DEVELOPMENT

The judges said: "This entry includes extensive reporting on a local apartment development. The stories include great detail on information the community was likely very interested to learn, including the developments that took place over time. The reporter and The Batavian team clearly dove in to this topic, covering it from the early stages and even through to the final result. Bravo."

**THIRD PLACE**  
**THE EAST HAMPTON STAR**

**CHRISTINE SAMPSON AND CHRISTOPHER WALSH**  
**MAIDSTONE GUN CLUB**

The judges said: "This entry includes compelling storytelling on top of in-depth investigating. I appreciate the multiple sides of the story covered in this series. Good use of the Freedom of Information Act, as well. Well done."

**DIVISION 2**  
**FIRST PLACE**  
**TIMES UNION**  
**JOSH SOLOMON**  
**DocGo**

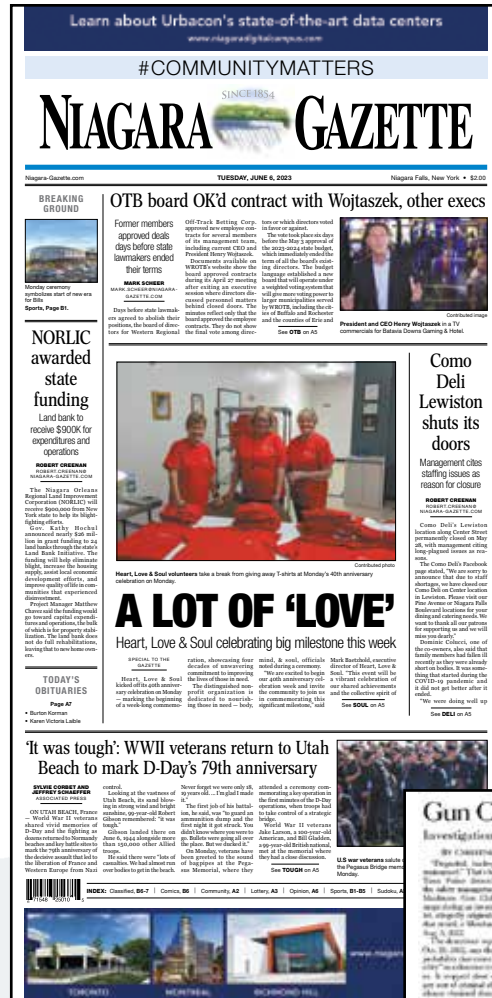
The judges said: "This entry breaks down a complex issue with clear reporting and considerable research. The series had a quantifiable, real-world impact and demonstrates strong investigative skills. Nice work."

**SECOND PLACE**  
**DAN'S PAPERS**  
**TIMOTHY BOLGER**  
**SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

The judges said: "This entry did a nice job shining light on an ongoing and previously unreported issue in this community. The results of the reporting illustrate its clear impact. Great work."

**THIRD PLACE**  
**THE QUEENS CHRONICLE**  
**SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY**  
**VOTING INTEGRITY**

The judges said: "This entry employs strong investigative skills and use of records to shine light on a topic of great importance to any community: Voting integrity. Nice work."



# Excellence Awards

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE DAILY NEWS

BATAVIA

*Brendan McDonough*

This was a very well-written story. It kept my attention until the end.

### SECOND PLACE

THE DAILY NEWS

BATAVIA

*Mallory Diefenbach*

What a great story! Very interesting!

### THIRD PLACE

THE PALLADIUM TIMES

OSWEGO

*Mike Perkins*

Great read. I enjoyed this one.

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Michael Turton*

Interesting and unusual subject matter.

### SECOND PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Alison Rooney*

Terrific accompanying photos propelled this story to the top.

### THIRD PLACE

THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

SETAUKET

*Rita J. Egan*

Amazing the things you find during a walk on the beach.

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

*Ximena Del Cerro*

The rainbow coalition is sweeter than ever.

### SECOND PLACE

THE RIVERDALE PRESS

BRONX

*Eric Harvey*

Great story about famed civil rights attorney.

### THIRD PLACE

THE ROCKAWAY TIMES

ROCKAWAY

*Katie McFadden*

Sweet story about a real-life princess.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE RIVERDALE PRESS

BRONX

*Gary Larkin*

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 5

### FIRST PLACE

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND

BRONX TIMES

BRONX

*Mayra Kalaora*

Feel good story all the way around.

### SECOND PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*David Ambro*

This is one talented writer - all of his submissions were award-winning.

### THIRD PLACE

BAY NEWS & BROOKLYN GRAPHIC

BROOKLYN

*Jada Camille*

Fabulous photos accompany uplifting holiday story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

BAY NEWS & BROOKLYN GRAPHIC

BROOKLYN

*Adam Daly*

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 6

### FIRST PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-WESTERN

EDITION

WESTHAMPTON BEACH

*Peter Boody*

Excellent research, reporting, writing, packaging. Nice work.

### SECOND PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN

EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

*Annette Hinkle*

Great approach, great writing, interesting piece.

### THIRD PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN

EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

*Cailin Riley*

An inspiring story - well-organized, well-written, nice package, including photos.

## BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE DAILY CATCH

RED HOOK

*Emily Sachar, Andrew Checchia and Robin Cherry*

Extremely well-written series highlighting various local businesses. By the time you have finished, you know the business, its history, feel like you have been there and know and are friends with the owner. Really connects the community.

## SECOND PLACE

PRESS-REPUBLICAN

PLATTSBURGH

*Robin Caudell*

Nice, emotional series about heart transplant recipient traveling to meet the family of his heart donor.

## THIRD PLACE

NORTHERN HOME, GARDEN &

LEISURE

PLATTSBURGH

*Teah Dowling and John Mitchell*

This is a fabulous series on old and unique homes and how they have been lovingly restored. Top-notch photography. For anyone who has ever done a DIY project or just enjoys looking at beautiful homes.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE EXAMINER

MOUNT KISCO

*Adam Stone*

## HONORABLE MENTION

CHELSEA COMMUNITY NEWS

NEW YORK

*Deborah Fenker, Michael Musto and Scott Stiffler*

## HONORABLE MENTION

GRANVILLE SENTINEL

GRANVILLE

*Doug LaRocque*

## BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

*Michael Dorgan, Iryna Shkurhan and Ethan Stark-Miller*

An eye-opening series that examines not only the bureaucratic struggles migrants must navigate, but also the harrowing experiences they endure in their quest for a better life.

### SECOND PLACE

LONG ISLAND PRESS

SYOSSET

*Timothy Bolger and*

*Michael Malaszczyk*

This was a well-researched and informative series of articles on sometimes nameless and faceless victims. Kudos to you all for telling their stories.

### THIRD PLACE

LONG ISLAND PRESS

SYOSSET

*Timothy Bolger, Claude Solnik and James Bernstein*

The reporters have produced a revealing series examining external threats from hackers as well as internal ones due to incompetence or corruption. I suspect there will be many stories similar to Suffolk County's in the coming years.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE CHRONICLE (GOSHEN)

GOSHEN

*Becca Tucker*

## BEST OBITUARIES

### FIRST PLACE

RIVERHEADLOCAL.COM

RIVERHEAD

*Alek Lewis*

Really enjoyed reading about Jelly the otter.

### SECOND PLACE

THE RED HOOK STAR-REVUE

BROOKLYN

*Joe Enright and Nathan Weiser*

Was a good read that definitely kept my attention!

### THIRD PLACE

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

CALICOON

*Fred Stabbert III*

Such an inspirational story.

## HONORABLE MENTION

PORT TIMES-RECORD

PORT JEFFERSON

*Raymond Janis and*

*Nasrin Zahed*

Judi seems like someone you would like to meet.

## EDITORIALS

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

*Tracy Ormsbee*

Each entry clearly and colorfully lays out a problem, discusses it and offers suggestions or poses questions without seeming preachy.

### SECOND PLACE

SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

SAG HARBOR

All three entries take subjects — a change in air flight path, the pay of sports officials, recognition of the Montaukett Nation — that may not be familiar to the general populace and explain the larger effects they have. The sports officials and Montaukett editorials are the strongest of the three.

### THIRD PLACE

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

SHELTER ISLAND

*Ambrose Clancy*

All three editorials — with interesting introductions — call readers to see a segment of the population they might ordinarily overlook: local baymen, those plagued by addictions, and the young and old in poverty. While the baymen editorial suggests action through a vote on a local bill, the other two urge personal action by individuals on behalf of their fellow man.

## EDITORIALS

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Akum Norder*

Entry features excellent combination of a name-in-the-news connection to local history and two editorials examining local issues. The latter two editorials are not just rehashes of a problem but offer suggestions for change, as similar editorials should.

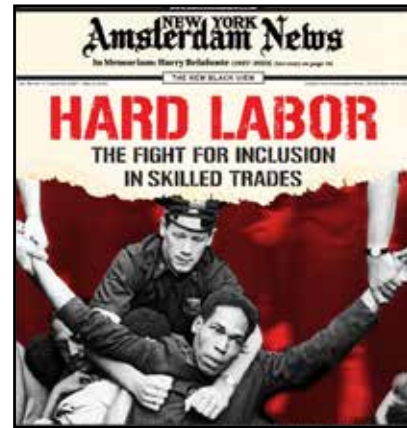
# Best Solutions Journalism Project, 2023



## FIRST PLACE

### TAKING STOCK OF HOUSING THE ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

The judges said: "Wow. This entry is outstanding. Of course, affordable housing is a near-crisis just about everywhere, but wow. To read about what we typically think of as an "urban issue" in this part of the country was so, so informative. The package of reporting, concise, yet descriptive writing and killer design supported by photos and top-notch graphics made these stories easy to read and understand. It is crystal clear that this outlet, Tom Rowland and staff are passionate about their place. I thoroughly enjoyed Rowland's work in this project. The sourcing and data give me some great ideas on how to push coverage of this issue in our city."



## SECOND PLACE

### NEW AMSTERDAM NEWS

The judges said: "This was an eye-opener; excellent, excellent reporting, writing and presentation of a simmering issue that has implications for today. Superior sourcing: not sure another outlet could have reached into the community as this outlet did to expose the struggle. Very impressive effort. This was an eye-opener; excellent, excellent reporting, writing and presentation of a simmering issue that has implications for today. Superior sourcing: not sure another outlet could have reached into the community as this outlet did to expose the struggle. Very impressive effort."



## THIRD PLACE

### THE EXAMINER

The judges said: "When Adam Stone digs in, watch out. I bet the bureaucrats have to keep an extra pair of clean underwear at the office when his paper hits."

# Best Graphic Illustration, 2023

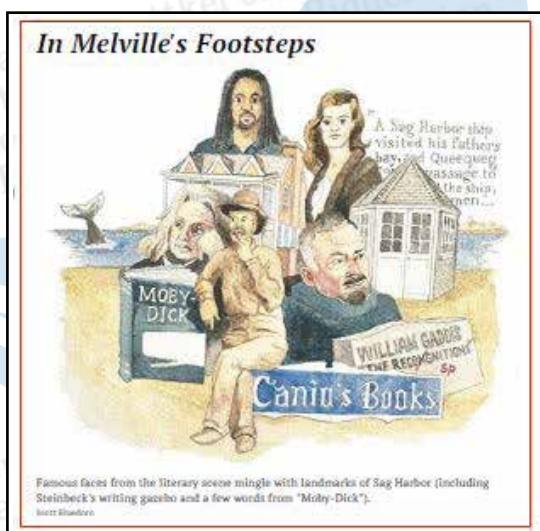


## FIRST PLACE

### DEB LUCKE

#### THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

The judges said: "The Highlands Current made a bold decision to empower artist Deb Lucke to bring a completely unconventional form of visual journalism to their publication, and the result is an eye-dominating piece of delightful, emotional storytelling. Beautiful work."



## SECOND PLACE

### SCOTT BLUEDORN

#### THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

The judges said: "Artist Scott Bluedorn's beautiful, quirky and eye-catching lead image sets the perfect tone for this fun, nostalgic and useful piece of journalism from the East Hampton Star Magazine. Bluedorn's dreamy, whimsical style is a perfect fit for capturing the rich history of the region by showcasing some of the most prominent creators behind the town that launched a thousand novels."



## THIRD PLACE

### AMANDA REED

#### THE RIVER REPORTER

The judges said: "Illustrator Amanda Reed's cute, metaphorical artwork serves as a great eye-catching device for an extremely useful and vitally important piece of community service journalism. The River Reporter's spread is a wonderful example of how newspapers can provide its readers with so many tools to live a better life — especially for where to find help in the worst crisis situations. While not as stylistically flashy as some entries, the raw usefulness of a piece like this elevates it above the rest. (... And Reed's "Swiss Army Knife" illustration from a separate entry gets the honorable mention!)"



# Excellence Awards

## SECOND PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO  
NEW YORK

*Robert Pozarycki*

The best three of seven editorials by the same writer in four entries are a good mix of problems from major (a bridge that could fail) to relatively minor (potential encryption of information to media). All three are handled well, with the third subject (e-bike battery fires) offering timely suggestions for users.

## THIRD PLACE

NASSAU HERALD  
LAWRENCE

*Jeffrey Bessen, Michael Hinman and Mark Nolan*

Variety of editorials concern topics in which most readers are interested (education, elections and transportation). One endorses project-based learning in schools, a second makes the case for a change in election laws, and a third speaks truth to power in calling for the possibility of collapsing a governmental board. All three presented clearly and well-written.

## BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

LAKE PLACID NEWS  
LAKE PLACID

*Andy Flynn*

It takes a whole lot of vulnerability to share a personal journey in the newspaper, as you must know. Not only did you share your weight loss journey, you shared the most intimate parts of your journey and that takes a lot of courage. It's a powerful testament. Cheers to you and I wish you well in your journey.

### SECOND PLACE

LAKE PLACID NEWS  
LAKE PLACID

*Naj Wikoff*

I really enjoyed your writing. Diversity is always a topic that deserves the spotlight and you do a great job with sharing these stories without giving a tokenism vibe. I enjoyed learning both about your community's growing diversity in winter sports and outdoors activity. Please continue with this content. It's very needed.

### THIRD PLACE

LYNBROOK EAST  
ROCKAWAY HERALD

*Mark Nolan*

I enjoyed your writing. Your selection covered a range of topics, and they all were smooth to read. I particularly enjoyed the piece about graduation rates. You explained why the high number of graduates was misleading in a clear, simple way.

## BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

WILLISTON TIMES  
WILLISTON PARK

*Robert Scott*

Well-written columns. Persuasive, informative and provide some solutions rather than only complaining. Good job.

### SECOND PLACE

WILLISTON TIMES  
WILLISTON PARK

*Tom Ferraro*

Well-written columns. Entertaining and engaging.

### THIRD PLACE

WILLISTON TIMES  
WILLISTON PARK

*George Marlin*

Well-written columns that are informative and interesting.

## BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

BRONX TIMES REPORTER AND  
BRONX TIMES

*ET Rodriguez*

Very interesting columns. Well-written, informative, and entertaining.

### SECOND PLACE

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL  
COOPERSTOWN

*Terry Berkson*

Entertaining, well-written columns.

### THIRD PLACE

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL  
COOPERSTOWN

*Jamie Zvirzdin*

Well-written, interesting columns.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON

### FIRST PLACE

PORT TIMES-RECORD  
PORT JEFFERSON

*Kyle Horne*

Creative cartoon depicting local government's attempts to address flooding.

### SECOND PLACE

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER  
SHELTER ISLAND

*Peter Waldner*

Funny cartoon, creative idea.

### THIRD PLACE

SAG HARBOR EXPRESS  
SAG HARBOR

*Peter Waldner*

Creative and humorous cartoon depicting the current state of online dependence. Good cartoon.

## BEST FREEDOM

### OF INFORMATION AWARD

### FIRST PLACE

THE EXAMINER  
MOUNT KISCO

*Adam Stone*

This was fascinating series about how public records requests might take some time to get, but they yield a treasure trove of information, in this case, invaluable to patients caught up in a health care company's questionable billing practices. It changed the conversation on this type of behavior. The stories revealed by the records shed light on a terrible situation.

### SECOND PLACE

CORTLAND STANDARD  
CORTLAND

The publication identified public access issues due to the pandemic and not only reported on it, but held a public records training that helped agencies that paid attention do better. This is quality community engagement

### THIRD PLACE

THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER  
NORTHPORT

*David Ambro*

This was an important investigation into allegations of workforce abusive behavior. Requesting records and staying relentless paid off over the months as the truth emerged about the official.

## BEST DISTINGUISHED

### COVERAGE OF DIVERSITY

### FIRST PLACE

DAN'S PAPERS  
BRIDGEHAMPTON

This innovative way of using a platform to tell stories by Shinnecock Voices is fresh and relevant, taking on topics of climate, conservation and gentrification. Bravo for amplifying underrepresented voices!

### SECOND PLACE

DAN'S PAPERS  
BRIDGEHAMPTON

*David Taylor*

The author's own experience as an LGBTQ+ writer lends understanding, authority and empathy to his writing. The profiles are rich, inviting and interesting.

### THIRD PLACE

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS  
NEW YORK

This historical perspective of the stories for, with and about the underrepresented communities shows a deep investment in amplifying diverse voices and stories of consequence that invite empathy from the reader.

## FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE DAILY NEWS  
BATAVIA

*Mark Gutman*

In a word: WOW! This is a spectacu-

lar shot ... great composition, beautiful fireworks, a daring pilot and the challenge of shooting all this at night. This is a clear winner all the way around. Great work!

### SECOND PLACE

THE VILLAGE BEACON-RECORD  
MILLER PLACE

*Bill Landon*

This photo shines in the competition in more ways than one ... from her facial expression to the unique glow in the photo. It's an obvious winner!

### THIRD PLACE

THE BATAVIAN  
BATAVIA

*Howard Owens*

This is absolutely precious! Baby Ezra is mesmerized by Santa ... and the Jolly Old Elf seems equally enthralled with the baby. Great work!

### HONORABLE MENTION

MALVERNE W HEMPSTEAD HERALD  
MALVERNE

*Tim Baker/Herald*

I love the facial expressions! This was among the finalists for the top three spots (and it was a very tough call!).

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE REPORTER  
WALTON

*Benjamin Patton*

Their facial expressions are priceless! In a category with dozens of amazing entries, this one is certainly worthy of recognition as well.

### HONORABLE MENTION

LAKE PLACID NEWS  
LAKE PLACID

*Arthur Maiorella*

This is so artistic! I love the composition and the reflection.

## FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER  
NORTHPORT

*Martin Stone*

This photo brought a smile to my face as soon as I saw it! Not only is the creature adorable, but the photographer's timing was excellent. It was truly worthy of the huge front-page placement and worthy of first place.

### SECOND PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
PHILIPSTOWN

*Ross Corsair*

Santa's expression is priceless! The photographer did an excellent job capturing the moment, and his timing was perfect. Well done!

### THIRD PLACE

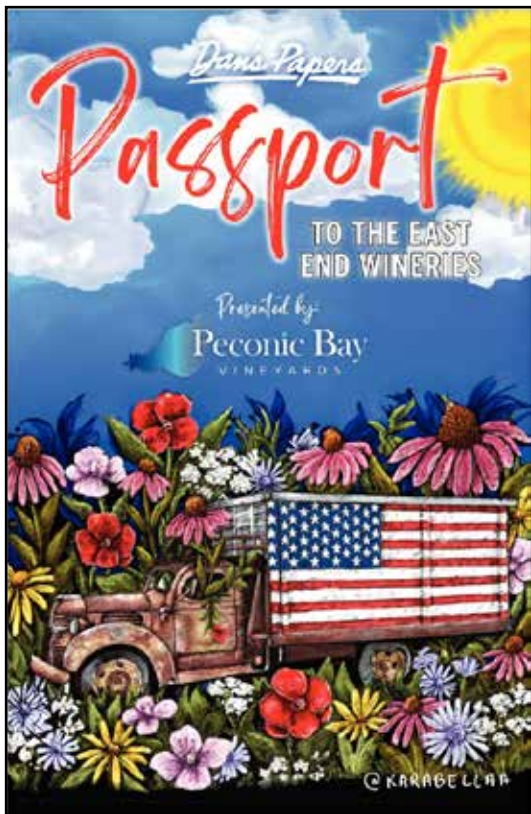
THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN  
EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

*Dana Shaw*

I love the action, especially the young lady in the middle! It truly captures the excitement of the competition.

# Best Special Section Advertising

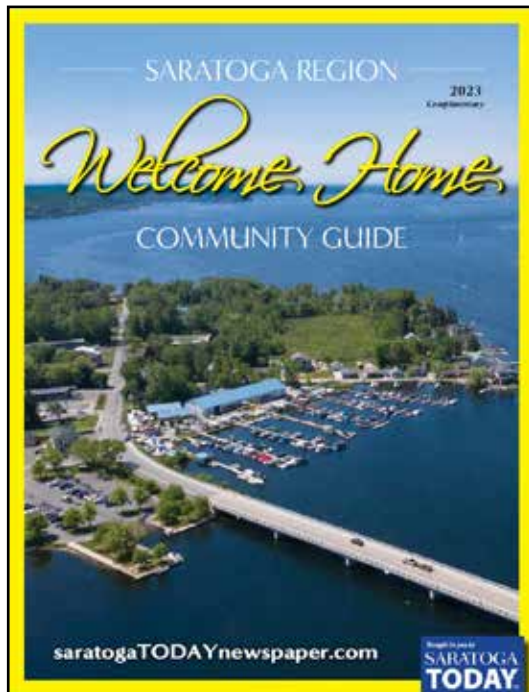


## FIRST PLACE

### DAN'S PAPER

BRIENNE DOSKOEZ

The judges said: "Very consistent in content, layout, design, color usage and information."



## SECOND PLACE

### SARATOGA TODAY

CHRIS BUSHEE AND

KACIE COTTER-HARRIGAN

The judges said: "I enjoyed this entry. Made me want to visit Saratoga. Good design, info, layout, etc."

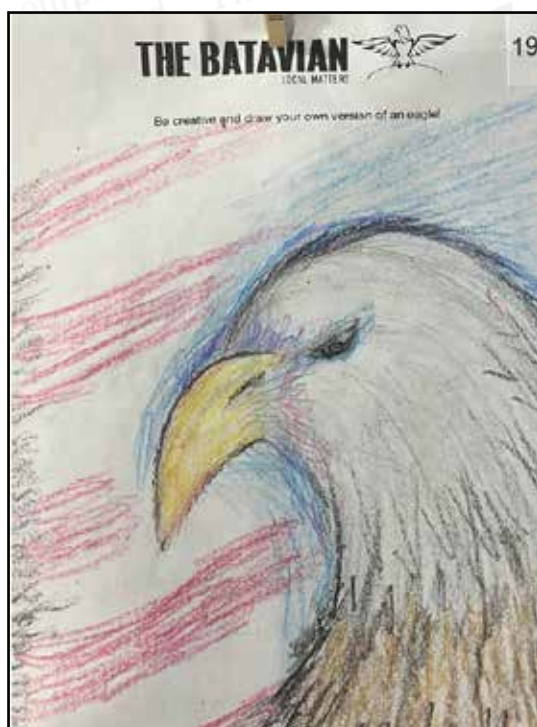


## THIRD PLACE

### THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

The judges said: "First thing that came to mind when I opened the special section - " This is pretty." Love the color combinations and the design throughout. Good entry."

# Best Audience Development Promotion



## FIRST PLACE

### THE BATAVIAN

HOWARD OWENS, LISA ACE,

JOANNE BECK,

KARA RICHENBERG

The judges said: "This promotion was a cute and fun way to show pride in the community and the newspaper while inviting young people to show their creativity by drawing eagles in an art competition."



## SECOND PLACE

### THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

TERESA LAGERMAN,

EMILY HARE

The judges said: "The ice cream promotion was colorful, useful and delicious. The map showing people how to reach the businesses showed a genuine desire by the publication to create deep community connections in a very delicious way."



## THIRD PLACE

### THE BATAVIAN

HOWARD OWENS, LISA ACE

The judges said: "This presentation made this judge think about Dick Tracy comic strips for their color, boldness, and terse but effective dialogue. The message was quite clear, attractive and interesting."

# Excellence Awards

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

EAST HAMPTON

*Durell Godfrey*

This is a very eye-catching photo, and an excellent job at framing the subject!

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Ross Corsair*

This is the kind of photo that immediately grabs your attention! It's outstanding. All four of this photographer's entries were excellent.

## FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

THE TIMES OF MIDDLE COUNTRY

CENTEREACH

*Steven Zaitz*

This package has a variety of images with great expression in the subjects faces. I can simply look at the photos and tell these people were cold, but had a warmth in their hearts for this special cause.

### SECOND PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*Martin Stone*

This is a very interesting entry and must have been a sight to see in person. I love that the photographer composed the image where the sun looks like an egg in the tree.

### THIRD PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*David Ambro*

The second photo in this set of images had perfect timing and everything went the photographer's way with the slime splitting perfectly to see the subject's face. Good job.

## HONORABLE MENTION

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Jim Franco*

The photographer made this image much more appealing by getting down low for a different perspective.

## SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON

HUNTINGTON

*Steven Zaitz*

This photographer did a good job of capturing the action in one of the top action sports. I liked the cropping of the photo, and the picture is crisp and clear.

### SECOND PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*Peggy Gallery*

Really good soccer shot.

### THIRD PLACE

EAST AURORA ADVERTISER

EAST AURORA

*Renea Lauck*

Really nice job. Perfect timing for a good picture of a sport that is not easy to shoot.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE TIMES OF

SMITHTOWN TOWNSHIP

SMITHTOWN

*Steven Zaitz*

## HONORABLE MENTION

CORTLAND STANDARD

CORTLAND

*Matt Czeitner*

Excellent action shot. Good look into the eyes of the ball carrier. I like it.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE REPORTER

WALTON

*Benjamin Patton*

## SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

*Marianne Barnett*

This is a really good photo. The timing of catching the swimmer at the top of the stroke is excellent. Kudos to the photographer.

### SECOND PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

*Ron Esposito*

Really good action photo. Great emotion in the faces. I thought this photographer did an excellent job.

### THIRD PLACE

THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER

NORTHPORT

*Rob Cuni*

This photo catches a key moment that happens in basketball games, but is rarely found. This photographer did a very good.

## HONORABLE MENTION

PORT TIMES-RECORD

PORT JEFFERSON

*Bill Landon*

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

*Marianne Barnett*

## SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON

HUNTINGTON

*Steven Zaitz*

This is a good photo. It is clear, sharp. I enjoyed the expressions on the players photos. The photo was cropped very well.

### SECOND PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Jim Franco*

### THIRD PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

*Walter Karling*

Very good photo. Great action. I know this is a photo contest, but let me give shout out to whomever laid out the page and wrote the headline.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

SETAUKET

*Steven Zaitz*

## HONORABLE MENTION

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Jim Franco*

## SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO(S)

### FIRST PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Lori Van Buren*

Hands-down the best photo in this category. Skillful use of light to capture athletes exercising in the early morning. Trees and the green grass along the pathway provide a beautiful frame for the runners in the primary (and best) photo. Cropping put the runners in the perfect place to catch the viewer's eye. Outstanding job!

### SECOND PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

*Rob Cuni*

Great job of capturing the unbridled joy of a high school victory in this two-photo sequence.

### THIRD PLACE

PRESS-REPUBLICAN

PLATTSBURGH

*Joey LaFranca*

Very good job of capturing a memorable celebration moment.

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON

HUNTINGTON

*Steven Zaitz*

The reader doesn't need a cutline to get the story in this photo. Nice job of capturing expressions.

## ART PHOTO

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

SHELTER ISLAND

*Adam Bundy*

When Mother Nature gives us the perfect "painting" of light, it's up to photographers to capture it. Great choice of perspective draws the viewers in and makes them want to walk down the pier to see inside that boat.

### SECOND PLACE

SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS

SAYVILLE

*Ken Stilleto Stier*

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but this one provides all the sounds and smells as well. Just looking at it, I can hear the laughter and screams of children on the rides and can smell the cotton candy. There

are some great colors in this image as well. Great composition as well.

### THIRD PLACE

THE SUFFOLK TIMES

MATTITUCK

*Jeremy Garretson*

This photographer used the horizon line to his advantage, with great color provided by Mother Nature.

## HONORABLE MENTION

NORTHERN HOME, GARDEN &

LEISURE

PLATTSBURGH

*John Mitchell*

This photograph has a nice perspective with the use of the porch to frame the scenery. I feel like I'm standing at the back door with a cup of coffee in my hand getting ready to tackle the day.

## ART PHOTO

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE ROCKAWAY TIMES

ROCKAWAY

*Deirdre Meehan*

This photographer must have had some patience to capture this image and a great eye for the composition.

### SECOND PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Will Waldron*

It can just image standing at the edge of the field checking on the livestock in the snow and something startling these starlings from where they were eating. This photographer did a great job of capturing the birds in action.

### THIRD PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Will Waldron*

While looking at all the entries side-by-side, my eyes kept coming back to this photo. It has great color and is well composed.

## HONORABLE MENTION

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Lori Van Buren*

The photographer's use of the leaves in the tree turned what could have been a bland photo into one with an interesting perspective.

## PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

LAKE PLACID NEWS

LAKE PLACID

*Arthur Maiorella*

Tells story while setting mood, excellent variety of photos.

### SECOND PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Ross Corsair*

Great faces and emotion. Shows the joy and thrill it is meant to portray.

# Best Small Space Ad



**FIRST PLACE**

**DIVISION 1**

**PIERCE STRUDLER**

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

The judges said: "Clean and simple layout with clear message, while still attracting the eye."



**FIRST PLACE**

**DIVISION 2**

**KAYLA HARTIGAN**

**THE PHOTO NEWS**

The judges said: "Great use of relevant color choices, along with sound judgment on fonts make this an outstanding ad."



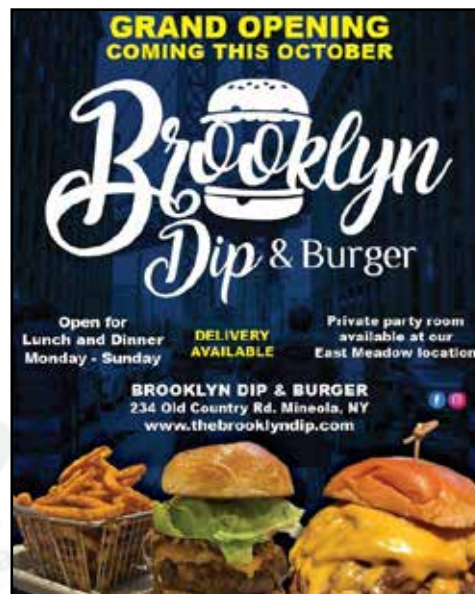
**SECOND PLACE**

**DIVISION 1**

**PIERCE STRUDLER**

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

The judges said: "This is a nice 'small size' ad. The color scheme is nice."



**SECOND PLACE**

**DIVISION 2**

**YVONNE FARLEY**

**THE WILLISTON TIMES**

The judges said: "The colors used, as well as the fonts and graphic, makes the image jump off the page. Well done!"



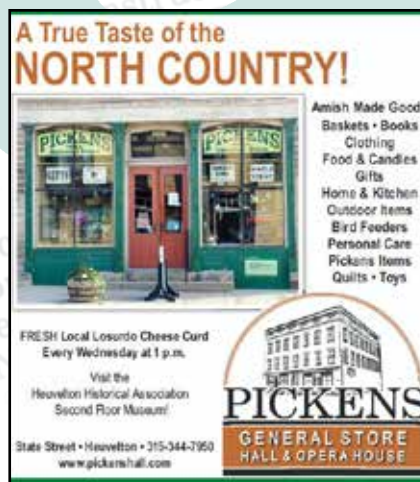
**THIRD PLACE**

**DIVISION 1**

**PIERCE STRUDLER**

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

The judges said: "This is a very clean ad. The graphic used screams fresh fish."



**THIRD PLACE**

**DIVISION 2**

**DEBBIE MORGAN**

**NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK**

The judges said: "The entire feel of this ad is exactly what I'd expect the proprietor wants to convey."

# Excellence Awards

## THIRD PLACE

WILLISTON TIMES

WILLISTON PARK

Roy Schneider

Beautiful, ethereal photos

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

Ron Esposito

Excellent large pic and supporting pics!

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE VILLAGE SUN

NEW YORK

Milo Hess

Excellent and somewhat disturbing pics. Strong layout.

## PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

Walter Karling

Strong main photo with good supporting pics. Evokes emotion and tells story. Good variety of pics.

### SECOND PLACE

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

CALLICOON

Excellent pics to tell story. Good variety of subjects, angles, composition.

### THIRD PLACE

THE VILLAGER (NYC)

NEW YORK

Dean Moses

Great faces, action and energy. All tell story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE VILLAGER (NYC)

NEW YORK

Dean Moses

Excellent pics and variety. Pic could tell story without text.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

Joseph Sperber

Great faces.

## SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

SHELTER ISLAND

Adam Bundy

You can feel the excitement in the photo

### SECOND PLACE

THE COLUMBIA PAPER

GHENT

David Lee

Great composition.

## THIRD PLACE

THE VILLAGE SUN

NEW YORK

Q. Sakamaki

Way to get in the middle of the action!

## HONORABLE MENTION

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-WESTERN

EDITION

WESTHAMPTON BEACH

Dana Shaw

Good photos.

## SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

Lloyd Mitchell

Great shot.

### SECOND PLACE

PRESS-REPUBLICAN

PLATTSBURGH

Ben Rowe

The timing of this photo is spot on.

### THIRD PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

Kyril Bromley

Photos definitely help tell the story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

Lloyd Mitchell

Excellent fire coverage.

## SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

Dean Moses

These photos are captivating and entice me to want to read the story.

### SECOND PLACE

QUEENS CHRONICLE

QUEENS

Ariella Kissin

The cause being covered is front and center in the photo.

### THIRD PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

Dean Moses

Visually compelling photos

### HONORABLE MENTION

GAY CITY NEWS

NEW YORK

Donna Aceto

## GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

### FIRST PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

Deb Lucke

The paper made a bold decision to empower the artist to bring a completely unconventional form of visual journalism to their publication, and the result is an eye-dominating piece of delightful, emotional storytelling. Beautiful work.

## SECOND PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

EAST HAMPTON

Scott Bluedorn

The artist's beautiful, quirky and eye-catching lead image sets the perfect tone for this fun, nostalgic and useful piece of journalism. The dreamy, whimsical style is a perfect fit for capturing the rich history of the region by showcasing some of the most prominent creators behind the town that launched a thousand novels.

### THIRD PLACE

THE RIVER REPORTER

NARROWSBURG

Amanda Reed

The illustrator's cute, metaphorical artwork serves as a great eye-catching device for an extremely useful and vitally important piece of community service journalism. The paper's spread is a wonderful example of how newspapers can provide its readers with so many tools to live a better life — especially for where to find help in the worst crisis situations. While not as stylistically flashy as some entries, the raw usefulness of a piece like this elevates it above the rest. (... And the "Swiss Army Knife" illustration from a separate entry gets the honorable mention!)

## BEST SPECIAL

### SECTION COVER

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON

PRESS-WESTERN EDITION

WESTHAMPTON BEACH

Bryan Boyhan and Lori Hawkins

The "herding bees" cover is nothing short of impressive. The image jumps off the page and demands your attention. The use of a black-and-white portrait juxtaposed with full-color imagery and text is a time-honored technique for building emphasis and interest, and this implementation is expertly done. You'd have no choice but to stop in your tracks and pick up this book based on the art alone. I love how the creators showed restraint in the use of headlines — this approach strengthens the impact of the wonderfully bizarre image and pulls all the attention to the bold sans serifs centered at bottom. It's a beautiful hierarchy for a gorgeous cover. Keep up this great work!

### SECOND PLACE

THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

EAST HAMPTON

Bryan Boyhan and Debi Shapiro

Powerful, dense, rich in color and bold in design, the "Blooming Beauties" cover demands your attention. Using a basic floral arrangement as a lead image could be a cliché device on a lesser book, but the black background and deep shadows turn a simple bouquet into an emotional eye catcher for this magazine. The use of elegant typography with a floral flourish creates a fresh, bold and fun composition.

## THIRD PLACE

PUTNAM COUNTY COURIER

CARMEL

Sheila Smith Cunningham and Douglas Cunningham

For a "field guide" cover, it doesn't get better than an image like this. Intriguing, inviting and beautiful, the Field Guide cover stands out as a feel-good piece of art that perfectly represents the beauty of the region.

## BEST SPECIAL

### SECTION COVER

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

NASSAU HERALD

LAWRENCE

Jeffrey A. Negrin

Good editorial design is a mix of visual metaphor, eye-catching imagery and strategic typography, and this cover expertly nails all three elements with ease. The use of a stark grey background was such a great decision for keeping the colorful main image large and in-charge. The use of the puzzle pieces is a great metaphorical device for mental health, and using a script typeface for emphasis was a bold move. The designer showed great restraint in the use of headlines — a very smart decision to keep things balanced and clean, and to make sure nothing competes with the loud design element at the top right. It's stylish, emotional and smart. Excellent work.

### SECOND PLACE

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

NEW YORK

Amanda Ulloa

This is a striking cover. Using a piece of art like this was such a bold move — it invokes so much emotion and perfectly captures the intensity of the story. The typography is loud, gritty and tough, which makes for a violent, shaky and eye-catching composition, especially with the use of reds, which should be commended. It grabs you, shakes you, and demands that you pick it up — which is paramount in cover design. Excellent work.

### THIRD PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

Luis Matos

Bold, kinetic, uplifting and just plain fun. This cover takes a top spot with its quirky, cute and action-packed illustration. It would be easy to dismiss this as novelty, but the composition demands attention and just works with its bright colors and extroverted personality. It invokes a stylish vibe that could be seen as an unconventional choice, but it should be celebrated as an accurate visual representation of the cultural identity of its readership. So fun!







# Excellence Awards

## SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**THE GARDEN CITY NEWS**

**GARDEN CITY**

Very professionally paginated, beautiful cover art, perfect size to carry around while visiting listed businesses and services.

### SECOND PLACE

**LONG ISLAND ADVANCE**

**PATCHOGUE**

*Andrew Ingenito and Terry Tuthill*

Very nice guide

### THIRD PLACE

**THE GARDEN CITY NEWS**

**GARDEN CITY**

Nicely paginated, great look

## SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD**

**SETAUKET**

Beautiful work on this keepsake. Dedication to the project shows in the completed product.

### SECOND PLACE

**NASSAU HERALD**

**LAWRENCE**

Great collection of options, along with bios.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD**

**SETAUKET**

The cover is fun and makes you want to look even further. Very nice overall.

## SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-GLOSSY

### FIRST PLACE

**SARATOGA TODAY**

**SARATOGA SPRINGS**

*Chris Bushee and Kacie Cotter-Harrigan*

Lovely publication that includes necessary advertiser information and not just a photo book.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON**

**PRESS-EASTERN EDITION**

**SOUTHAMPTON**

Wonderful dining guide; easy to look through to find the perfect place.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE SUFFOLK TIMES**

**MATTITUCK**

"Best of" publication; highlighting the best for any newcomers to try out

## BEST REAL ESTATE/HOME SECTION

### FIRST PLACE

**ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE**

**SARANAC LAKE**

*Lindsay Munn, Andy Flynn and Victoria Marbone*

A beautiful cover with nice art throughout. The layout is clean and appealing and the magazine overall has a good "feel" to it. And I greatly enjoyed the features.

### SECOND PLACE

**SAG HARBOR EXPRESS**

**SAG HARBOR**

*Brendan J. O'Reilly*

A very nice design with eye-catching pages that draw the reader in for a wealth of content.

### THIRD PLACE

**PORT WASHINGTON NEWS**

**PORT WASHINGTON**

*Cathy Bongiorno*

A nice layout and interesting features make for a pleasant reading experience.

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION: ADVERTISING

### FIRST PLACE

**DAN'S PAPERS**

**BRIDGEHAMPTON**

*Brienne Doskoez*

Very consistent in content, layout, design, color usage and information. Like the idea of adding a notes page.

### SECOND PLACE

**SARATOGA TODAY**

**SARATOGA SPRINGS**

*Chris Bushee and Kacie Cotter-Harrigan*

I enjoyed this entry. Made me want to visit. Good design, info, layout, etc.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE SMITHTOWN NEWS**

**SMITHTOWN**

First thing that came to mind when I opened the special section - "This is pretty." Love the color combinations and the design throughout. Good entry.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD**

**SETAUKET**

Loved this entry and the idea of a salute to women from all walks of life. Just enough info on each woman. Good layout and presentation.

## BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

### FIRST PLACE

**WARWICK ADVERTISER**

**WARWICK**

*Kayla Hartigan and Christina Scotti*

If the saying, "a photo is worth a thousand words", it may be cause of ads like this. The branding is consistent and clean and the photos truly speak exactly to what a diner should expect upon visiting this restaurant.

### SECOND PLACE

**PUTNAM COUNTY COURIER**

**CARMEL**

*Sheila Smith Cunningham*

This is a great political campaign. I love the use of the "necessary" colors red, white, and blue, and it was done well. The candidate photo made him relatable and I was happy to see the use of the QR code is more and more a needed element in print ad.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE CHRONICLE (GOSHEN)**

**GOSHEN**

*Christina Scotti*

Photos look perfect with the color scheme of the branding. These are clean ads without putting too much information into them.

## BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**THE SUFFOLK TIMES**

**MATTITUCK**

Love all of these ads!

### SECOND PLACE

**SAG HARBOR EXPRESS**

**SAG HARBOR**

Great colors, nicely arranged.!

### THIRD PLACE

**THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-EASTERN**

**EDITION**

**SOUTHAMPTON**

Love this look!

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE RIVER REPORTER**

**NARROWSBURG**

*Amanda Reed*

## BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**DAN'S PAPERS**

**BRIDGEHAMPTON**

*Elizabeth Aloni*

Love this!

### SECOND PLACE

**SARATOGA TODAY**

**SARATOGA SPRINGS**

*Kelly Schoonbeck*

Great ad!

### THIRD PLACE

**NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK**

**POTSDAM**

*Debbie Morgan*

Beautiful!

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE PHOTO NEWS**

**MONROE**

*Christina Scotti*

## BEST SMALL SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

*Pierce Strudler*

Clean and simple layout with clear message, while still attracting the eye.

### SECOND PLACE

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

*Pierce Strudler*

This is a nice "small size" ad. The color scheme is nice.

### THIRD PLACE

**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

*Pierce Strudler*

This is a very clean ad. The graphic used screams fresh fish.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD**

**SETAUKET**

*Beth Heller Mason*

## BEST SMALL SPACE AD

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

**THE PHOTO NEWS**

**MONROE**

*Kayla Hartigan*

Great use of relevant color choices, along with sound judgment of fonts make this an outstanding ad.

### SECOND PLACE

**WILLISTON TIMES**

**WILLISTON PARK**

*Yvonne Farley*

The colors used, as well as the fonts and graphic, makes the image jump off the page. Well done!

### THIRD PLACE

**NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK**

**POTSDAM**

*Debbie Morgan*

The entire feel of this ad is exactly what I'd expect the proprietor wants to convey.

## BEST MULTI-ADVERTISER PAGES

### FIRST PLACE

**NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK**

**POTSDAM**

*Debbie Morgan and*

*Amanda Hitterman*

Well done!

### SECOND PLACE

**NASSAU HERALD**

**LAWRENCE**

Brilliant money-maker; great work!

### THIRD PLACE

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN WEEKLY**

**PLATTSBURGH**

*Ryan Wilson*

An enduring concept - highly beneficial and no doubt appreciated by local businesses. Worth repeating annually.

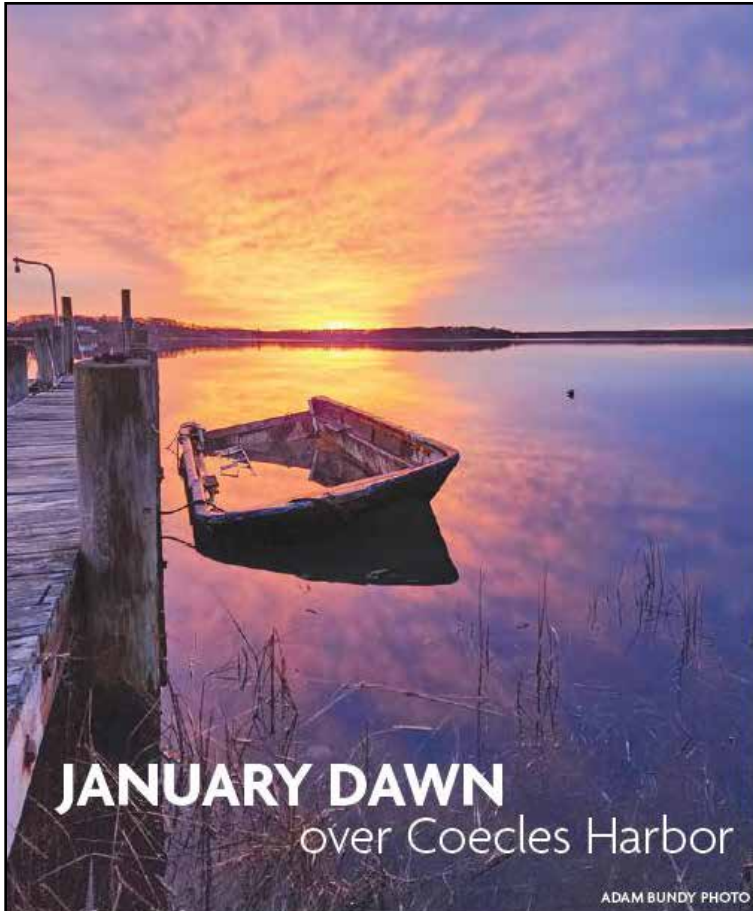
### HONORABLE MENTION

**NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK**

**POTSDAM**

*Debbie Morgan, John Basham and Julie Spadaccini*

# Best Art Photo, 2023



**JANUARY DAWN**  
over Coecles Harbor

ADAM BUNDY PHOTO

**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1**

**ADAM BUNDY**

**SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER**

The judges said: "When Mother Nature gives us the perfect 'painting' of light, it's up to us photographers to capture it to the best of our abilities. Bundy did just that with his choice of perspective which draws the viewers in and makes them want to walk down the pier to see inside that boat."



**SECOND PLACE**

**DIVISION 1**

**KEN STILLETTO STIER**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS**

The judges said: "A picture may be worth a thousand words, but this one provides all the sounds and smells as well. Just looking at it, I can hear the laughter and screams of children on the rides and can smell the cotton candy. There are some great colors in this image as well."

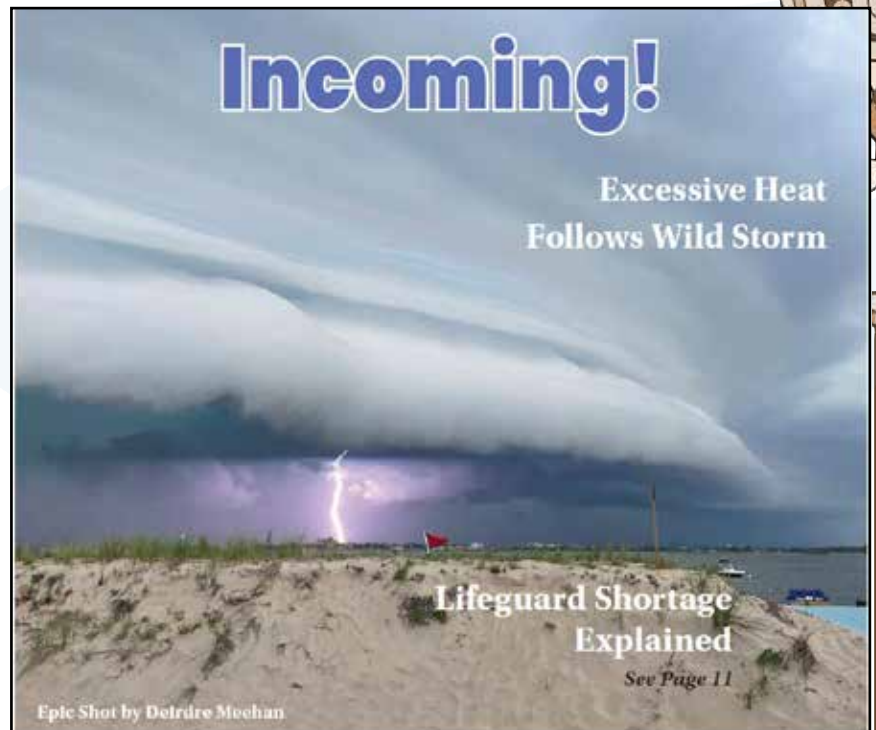


**THIRD PLACE**  
**DIVISION 1**

**JEREMY GARRETSON**

**THE SUFFOLK TIMES**

The judges said: "This photographer used the horizon line to his advantage, with great color provided by Mother Nature."



**Incoming!**

Excessive Heat  
Follows Wild Storm

Lifeguard Shortage  
Explained

See Page 11

Epic Shot by Deirdre Meehan

**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2**

**DEIRDRE MEEHAN**

**THE ROCKAWAY TIMES**

The judges said: "This photographer must have had some patience to capture this image and a great eye for the composition."



**SECOND PLACE**

**DIVISION 2**

**WILL WALDRON**

**THE TIMES UNION**

The judges said: "It can just image standing at the edge of the field checking on the livestock in the snow and something startling these starlings from where they were eating. This photographer did a great job of capturing the birds in action."



**THIRD PLACE**

**DIVISION 2**

**WILL WALDRON**

**THE TIMES UNION**

The judges said: "While looking at all the entries side-by-side, my eyes kept coming back to this photo. It has great color and is well composed."

# Excellence Awards

## BEST MEDIA KIT/SALES

### COLLATERAL

#### FIRST PLACE

SARATOGA TODAY  
SARATOGA SPRINGS

*Chris Bushee and  
Kacie Cotter-Harrigan*

More than just a pretty face, this media kit has it all - testimonials, stats, convincing copy, gorgeous layout - great work here.

#### SECOND PLACE

DAN'S PAPERS

BRIDGEHAMPTON

*Stephanie Bitis and  
Brienne Doskoez*

Clean, elegant, informative, enticing - well done.

#### THIRD PLACE

NASSAU HERALD

LAWRENCE

*Jeffrey A. Negrin*

A model for media kits everywhere.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

PORT WASHINGTON NEWS

PORT WASHINGTON

*Alex Nuñez*

## AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

### PROMOTION

#### FIRST PLACE

THE BATAVIAN

BATAVIA

*Howard Owens, Lisa Ace, Joanne Beck and Kara Richenberg*

This promotion was a cute and fun way to show pride in the community and the newspaper while inviting young people to show their creativity by drawing eagles in an art competition. The photos of winners such as the Juneteenth event guitar winner was adorable.

#### SECOND PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Teresa Lagerman and  
Emily Hare*

The ice cream promotion was colorful, useful and delicious. The map showing people how to reach the businesses showed a genuine desire by the publication to create deep community connections in a very delicious way.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE BATAVIAN

BATAVIA

*Howard Owens and Lisa Ace*

This presentation made this judge think about Dick Tracy comic strips for their color, boldness, and terse but effective dialogue. The message was quite clear, attractive and interesting.

## BEST HOUSE AD/

### AD CAMPAIGN

DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

THE SUFFOLK TIMES

MATTITUCK

*Lovely - simply lovely.*

#### SECOND PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Teresa Lagerman*

Cute Halloween ad.

#### THIRD PLACE

WILLISTON TIMES

WILLISTON PARK

*Yvonne Farley and Sue Tabakin*

Best of Nassau County - always a winning concept.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

SAG HARBOR

## INNOVATIVE AD PROJECT

#### FIRST PLACE

THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

SMITHTOWN

Powerful partnership with disabilities organization results in a powerful win/win. Great concept and execution.

#### SECOND PLACE

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

POTSDAM

*Amanda Hitterman,*

*Debbie Morgan, John Basham*

*and Bill Shumway*

Lovely, creative concept. Exceptionally clean layouts.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

SETAUKET

People of the Year - a winner for the community - a money-maker for the newspaper - way to go!

#### HONORABLE MENTION

GRANVILLE SENTINEL

GRANVILLE

*Jane Cosey, Deb Brosseau,*

*Renae McKittrick and Julie Fedler*

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

#### FIRST PLACE

THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

SETAUKET

Good looking black and white page layout for classifieds. Could easily find the classified ads on the pages. Not hidden among the ads.

#### SECOND PLACE

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

CALLICOON

True classified pages. Good format, spacing.

#### THIRD PLACE

TIDE OF MORICHES

MORICHES

*Suzanne Link and*

*Nina Quartuccio*

Good layout of display advertising.

## HONORABLE MENTION

LONG ISLAND ADVANCE

PATCHOGUE

*Suzanne Link and*

*Nina Quartuccio*

Good spacing between ads. Black and white - color ads nice layout

## BEST VIDEO

#### FIRST PLACE

THE EXAMINER

MOUNT KISCO

*Adam Stone*

Touches the viewer's heart. Excellent camera work. Both interesting and informative.

#### SECOND PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Jessica Marshall and*

*Brendan J. Lyons*

Very informative, interesting and keeps the viewers attention.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

PHILIPSTOWN

*Ross Corsair*

Easily pulls the reader into the story. Excellent information and reporting.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

*Dylan Christie*

Good solid camera work with good reporting.

## BEST PODCAST

#### FIRST PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Jessica Marshall and*

*Wendy Liberatore*

This entry had a great intro that pulls one in, great audio talent and is well-edited. The use of background audio, music and the storytelling of the main talent make the listener feel engaged and a part of the action.

#### SECOND PLACE

THE DAILY CATCH

RED HOOK

*Emily Sachar*

This well-produced podcast allowed an interesting community member with a fascinating story to tell his tale with the help of thoughtful guidance by the host.

#### THIRD PLACE

TIMES UNION

ALBANY

*Jessica Marshall*

This podcast featured great storytelling and multiple sources of audio to effectively weave together a story. The host in engaging throughout.

## BEST NEWSLETTER

#### FIRST PLACE

CITY & STATE

NEW YORK

*Jeff Coltin*

This is an incredible read, especially for those obsessed with city and

state politics. It is even interesting for people not living in New York due to the incredible sourcing and storytelling, factoids and tidbits, and insider exclusive feel. It's an excellent example of doing great journalism in an intimate and conversational way to consumers who eagerly await it in their inboxes.

#### SECOND PLACE

AMNEWYORK METRO

NEW YORK

*Em Davenport, Dylan Christie,*

*Bobby Hankinson and*

*Rick McGuire*

This newsletter is visually compelling, creative and fun. The main story, video, polls and other tidbits be on transit, rats or good eats are incredibly interesting.

#### THIRD PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

*Zachary Matson*

Offers important stories and useful information on the subject it is dedicated to -- water and waterways issues, be it a salt summit or harmful algal blooms. There is personality and not merely links to other stories.

## BEST ONLINE

### BREAKING NEWS

#### FIRST PLACE

THE BROOKLYN PAPER

BROOKLYN

*Kirstyn Brendlen, Adam Daly,*

*Isabel Song Beer*

*and Jada Camille*

This entry provides thorough information about the weather event with good background context to help readers conceptualize the event. The inclusion of inline photos and an embedded tweet are nice additions to the coverage that help break up text and visually show the reality of the situation in a way that words sometimes cannot.

#### SECOND PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

The format of this entry helps to localize the impacts for readers by splitting information into different counties with pertinent updates for various locations. Including inline photos and a graph helps visualize the weather incident.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE DAILY CATCH

RED HOOK

*Emily Sachar*

This entry showcases that the importance of listening to one's audience cannot be understated. With newsroom resources running low, they got creative and invited the audience to join in efforts to truly show the impact of such a large weather event. The inclusion of community-submitted videos, photos and personal anecdotes brought the story to life while keeping residents informed.

# Best Spot News Photo(s), 2023



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1**

**ADAM BUNDY**

**SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER**

The judges said: "You can feel the excitement in the photo"



**A HORRIFIC NIGHT**

**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2**

**LLOYD MITCHELL**

**THE BROOKLYN PAPER**

The judges said: "Great shot."



**SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 1**

**DAVID LEE**

**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**

The judges said: "Great composition."



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3**

**DEAN MOSES**

**AMNEW YORK METRO**

The judges said: "These photos are captivating and entice me to want to read the story."



**SECOND PLACE**

**DIVISION 2**

**BEN ROWE**

**PRESS-REPUBLICAN**

The judges said: "The timing of this photo is spot on."



**SECOND PLACE**

**DIVISION 3**

**ARIELLA KISSIN**

**QUEENS**

**CHRONICLE**

The judges said: "The cause being covered is front and center in the photo."



**THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 1**

**Q. SAKAMAKI**

**THE VILLAGE SUN**



**THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 2**

**KYRIL BROMLEY**

**THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS**



**CRUSHING**

**THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 3**

**DEAN MOSES**

**AMNEWYORK METRO**

# Excellence Awards

## OVERALL MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE

### FIRST PLACE

SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

SAG HARBOR

Beautiful covers and varied, creative design. I love the creativity of the headlines and the special treatment given to individual features to make each stand out. And while the aesthetics are gorgeous, the writing stands out just as much with interesting, well-written articles throughout.

### SECOND PLACE

LAKE CHAMPLAIN WEEKLY

PLATTSBURGH

A treat to read through with a neat, "clean" design throughout, punctuated by large pictures, which nicely compliment well-written articles.

### THIRD PLACE

ADIRONDACK EXPLORER

SARANAC LAKE

James Odato

A clean design and plenty of nice-

ly-sized pictures make for a pleasant reading experience without detracting from the featured stories.

## BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE

### FIRST PLACE

LAKE CHAMPLAIN WEEKLY

PLATTSBURGH

Benjamin Pomerance

I struggled to determine the top two spots in this category, but finally gave the edge to this sweet story of professional musicians Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy. It details their career accomplishments without resorting to list-making and gives readers a sense of who they are as people. The writer takes you from how they met to how they make it work, with seven children in tow, all the time keeping the writing light and lyrical.

### SECOND PLACE

THE SOUTHAMPTON

PRESS-EASTERN EDITION

SOUTHAMPTON

Michelle Trauring

This account of a grueling cycling trip across Africa was a close second in this category. Her writing skills came across in vivid descriptions

and inventive turns of phrase. Very well done!

### THIRD PLACE

DAN'S PAPERS

BRIDGEHAMPTON

Kevin Redding

This profile of the manager was just as much a profile of the bookstore. I appreciated that the writer spent time on-site, getting feedback from customers and sharing the general vibe of the visit. The anecdotes told not just the story of a bookstore and its people, but, more subtly, how the book industry and a way of life are changing.

### HONORABLE MENTION

CITY & STATE

NEW YORK

Annie McDonough

This profile of Justin Brannan deftly wove together his political and personal lives and how his background in punk music set him on this unlikely career path as a New York City Council member. My favorite line was this summation: "Brannan raged against the machine, and then he became the machine."

## BEST THEMED ISSUE

### FIRST PLACE

SARATOGA TODAY

SARATOGA SPRINGS

Chad Beatty and

Kacie Cotter-Harrigan

Beautiful throughout with a cohesive collection of well-written stories. Lots of big, vibrant pictures draw the reader in and make them stick around to read what you have to say. Well done!

### SECOND PLACE

LAKE CHAMPLAIN WEEKLY

PLATTSBURGH

Gorgeous cover and a classic, clean design and great art throughout.

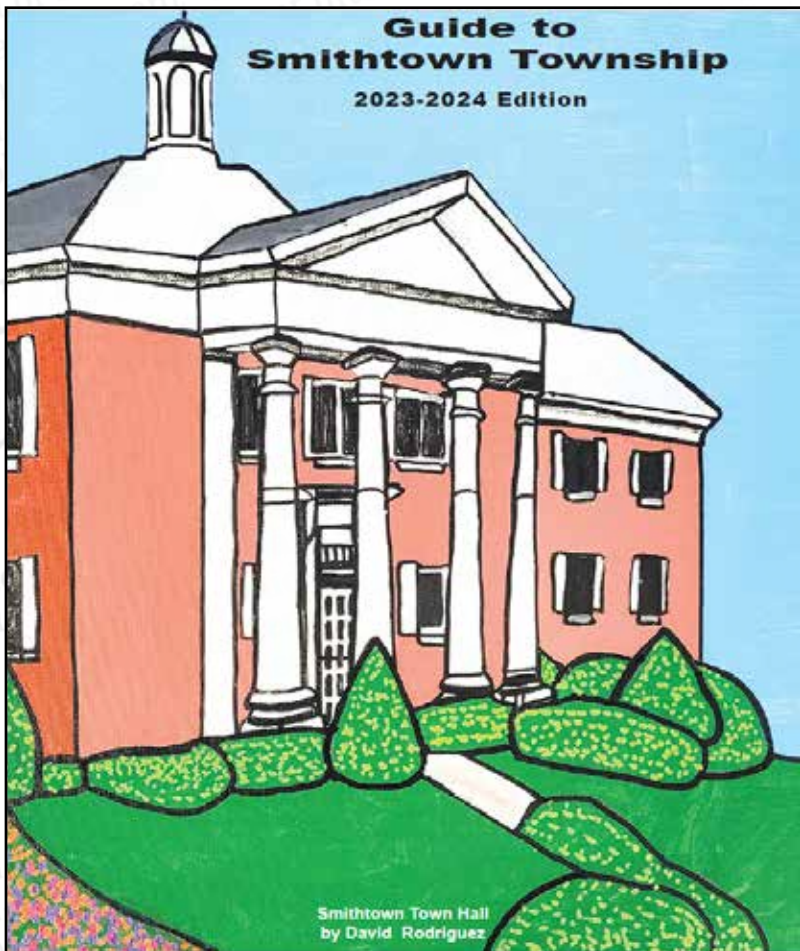
### THIRD PLACE

SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

SAG HARBOR

The Summer Book features a great layout with creative design and is full of great stories that tie together well.

# Best Innovative Ad Project



## FIRST PLACE

### THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

The judges said: "Powerful partnership with disabilities organization results in a powerful win/win. Great concept and execution."

**North Country SPOTLIGHT**  
Hepburn Library...serving the Colton community!  
The sponsor is Colton Hepburn Library

**Hepburn Library of Colton statistics at a glance**

Library Visits	2,262
Library Holdings	48,965
Resealed Borrowers	223
Non-Resident Borrowers	273
Circulated Materials	35,034
Children's Summer Reading Program Participants	41
Adult Program Attendees	483

**INTERLIBRARY LOAN**

Items Sent	2,823
Items Received	2,783
Website Visits	32,013

**Ribbon-cutting celebrates opening of Children's Story Garden**

The garden includes a story walk and sitting area as well as library resources.

Library offered coffee hour to seniors.

**Library Budget Information**

Operating Fund Receipts		Fund Expenditures	
State of NY	\$14,420	General Services	\$13,747
Local Sales Tax	\$14,420	Library Materials	\$5,620
County of Putnam	\$0	Other Expenses	\$2,000
Local Aid	\$1,104	State Grants	\$2,000
Other Receipts	\$2,262	State Grants	\$2,000
Total	\$32,106	Total	\$21,367

Check Us Out!  
84 Main St., Colton • 315-262-2310  
www.coltonhepburnlibrary.org

## SECOND PLACE

### NORTH COUNTRY

#### THIS WEEK

AMANDA HITTERMAN, DEBBIE

MORGAN, JOHN BASHAM,

BILL SHUMWAY

The judges said: "Lovely, creative concept. Exceptionally clean layouts"

tbrnewsmedia.com  
**The VILLAGE TIMES HERALD**  
STONY BROOK • OLD FIELD • STONY BROOK • STONY BROOK • EAST STONY BROOK • SOUTH STONY BROOK • FOGYOTT • STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY  
Vol. 48, No. 43 December 26, 2023 \$120

**2023 People of the Year Winners**

Michael Winfield	A5
Jen & Marilyn Sanchez	A6
Alex Huzajkovic	A8
Danielle Trotter	A10
Deborah & John Velez	A12
Kristin Mann	A13
Marc Perez	A14
Lizette Wilder	A16
Susan Perrella	A18
Lisa Stovickson	A19
Richard Kitzan	A20
Jeferson Herwell	A22
Stephan Reyes	A24

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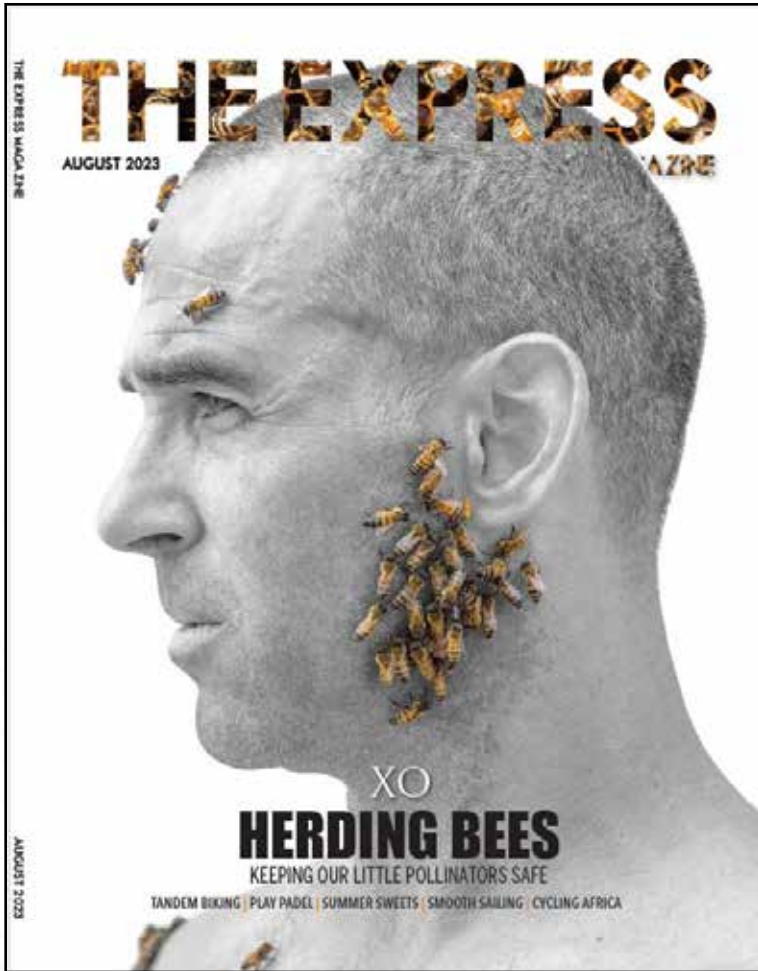
## THIRD PLACE

### THE VILLAGE

#### TIMES HERALD

The judges said: "A winner for the community - a money maker for the newspaper - way to go!"

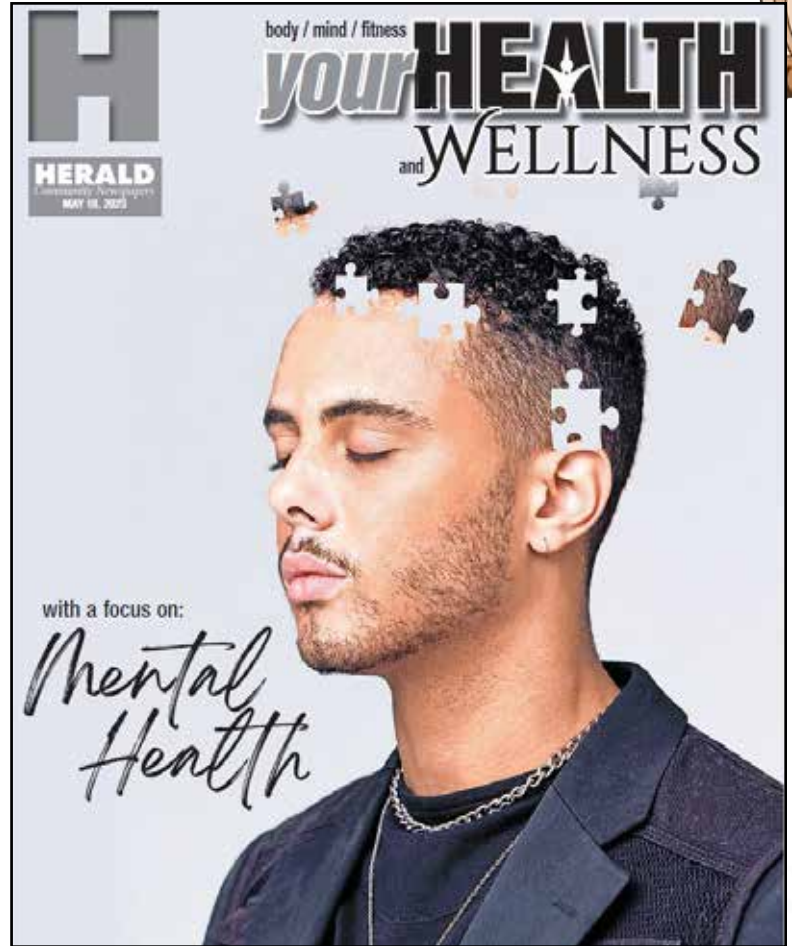
# Best Special Section Cover, 2023



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1**  
**BRYAN BOYHAN, LORI HAWKINS**

**THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS-WESTERN**

The judges said: *"The Express Magazine's cover is nothing short of impressive. The image jumps off the page and demands your attention. The use of a black-and-white portrait juxtaposed with full-color imagery and text is a time-honored technique and this implementation is expertly done."*



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2**  
**JEFFREY NEGRIN**  
**NASSAU HERALD**

The judges said: *"Good editorial design is a mix of visual metaphor, eye-catching imagery and strategic typography, and this cover from the Herald expertly nails all three elements with ease. It's stylish, emotional and smart. Excellent work."*

PRINTING OF THIS AWARDS NEWSLETTER COURTESY OF



## Editor's Note

NYPA's annual Better Newspaper Contest is always one of the highlights of the year. The contest showcases the extraordinary work New York's newspapers produce on a daily basis. Members of the Tennessee Press Association judged the entries in January. 142 newspapers submitted 2,530 entries in 65 categories. 379 awards were presented at NYPA's annual conference April 26th and 27th in Saratoga Springs. The most competitive categories by far were Feature Story and News Story. The judges donated a tremendous amount of time, and we appreciate their efforts on your behalf.

Annually, Jill Van Dusen administers the contest - assisting newspapers submitting entries, coordinating the judging, verifying winners, generating plaques and certificates, and posting the winners to our website.

Judy Patrick produces the contest newspaper, the convention program, and every issue of NewsBeat.

Rick Fensterer (who is not an NYPA employee - just an extremely dedicated friend and volunteer) produces and presents all of the award shows, takes convention photos, and supplies any other on site support we need during the conference.

Our longtime, and extremely generous friends and colleagues at Trumbull Printing donate the printing of the BNC Newspaper and every issue of NewsBeat.

I don't know how to adequately express my appreciation for the amazing work and support from all of them.

To you, the newspaper staff who create and enter your best work, thank you. On behalf of the communities you serve, we salute you. You motivate and inspire us. Thank you for entering the contest, for attending the conference, and for your continued support of NYPA.

Michelle

# Best Local Government Coverage

## Proposed zoning changes lead to call for moratorium

**BY JANANNE ABEL**  
Who would have expected that two public hearings about zoning changes to the largest character district in the form-based zoning code that was adopted by the Fort Clinton Board of Trustees in May 2020 would in one night lead to a call for at least a one-year moratorium on all development?

That's what happened on Monday, Feb. 5 in the Rye Town Courtroom at 350 N. Main St.

When it was identified by Trustee Bart Diddes and others that the CD-4 General Urban Character District which makes up 40% of the Village, was flawed, a committee of residents and other stakeholders was appointed to study it and make recommendations for change. Their work turned into a six-month process consisting of at least 22 meetings and involved the hiring of a planning consultant to aid them in their deliberations and focus areas.

A public hearing on establishing a new CD Neighborhood Character District, a new CD-4-MU Mixed Use Character District and a new RZF Two-Family Residence Character District and making related amendments and changes to the existing CD-4 District code was opened concurrently with another public hearing on changing the official zoning map.

Rendering of the 12-story, 194-unit residential building proposed by St. Katherine Group for 28-34 Pearl St., the former location of a gas station and a dilapidated house.

**RENDERING BY LESLARD DESIGN INC.**

Board members speak their mind  
"The CD-4 zone comprised 40% of the Village and was ship-shod at best," said Diddes during a 20-minute monologue to open the hearing. "We saw it could be harmful to the neighborhood character we are charged with protecting."

"After the [March 2022] election, we had some executive sessions where we talked about parking, parking structures, an idea to institute an overnight on-street parking fee as part of a solution to manage parking. We also talked about density in the neighborhoods. When it shows up again in the parking problem."

Diddes pressed the CD-4 committee for their tremendous amount of work identifying and suggesting remedies to amend the form-based code.

"It was a herculean task," he said, noting. Please turn to page 16.

**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1**  
**JANANNE ABEL & JEREMIAH HASSEL**  
**WESTMORE NEWS**

The judges said: "Entries cover diverse current political issues in the community and are presented in a well-written, well-designed platform. Photos provide good supplemental material."

## NYPD beefing up traffic enforcement against illegal parking in bus lanes

**BY BEN BRACHFELD**  
**AMNEW YORK METRO**

The NYPD is beefing up its enforcement against illegal parking in bus lanes, including a new task force to deter and penalize those doing it, according to police officials.

The Police Department, in cooperation with the MTA, launched the new task force on Feb. 1, with officers assigned to enforce the law on 11th Avenue and on the MTA's bus lanes.

The officers are patrolling the bus lanes in the city's five boroughs, including Manhattan, and are looking for vehicles parked in the bus lanes during the day, as well as those parked in the bus lanes at night.

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**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2**  
**BEN BRACHFELD**  
**AMNEW YORK METRO**

The judges said: "Great images that really supplement and bring the story to life. The overall design and readability is well-executed, and topics are relevant, interesting, and attention-grabbing."

The Village Sun  
REAL NEWS FOR THE COMMUNITY  
www.thevillagesun.com

Home News Local Business Arts Politics Education Health Entertainment Sports

Home » News » Local » Police beefing up traffic enforcement against illegal parking in bus lanes

Police beefing up traffic enforcement against illegal parking in bus lanes

By Ben Brachfeld  
AMNEW YORK METRO

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**SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 1**  
**LINCOLN ANDERSON**  
**THE VILLAGE SUN**

The judges said: "Articles are well articulated with accompanying photos that bring the story to life. Issues are relevant to the community. Reports are executed in an objective manner that truly empowers the reader to have a dynamic understanding of the issue(s) at hand."

## The Silencing of Queens' Little Guyana

**BY ARIAMA C. LONG**  
AmNews Staff, Report for America  
Corps Member

Little Guyana, located in Richmond Hill and South Ozone in Queens and consisting of Indo-Caribbean and South Asian residents, is a gerrymandered community in New York City. For three decades, organizers have been on a crusade for the community to be adequately represented at every level of city and state government.

Every 10 years, after the census, the voting lines for the State Senate, State Assembly, U.S. House of Representatives, and City Council have to be redrawn to reflect the new count of the population. Before the state's redistricting process was kicked off by the census count in 2020, Little Guyana was split between two senate districts, two congressional districts, four city council districts, and seven assembly districts: Districts 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, and 38.

Caribbean Equality Project Founder and Executive Director Mohamed Q. Amin said being split up is detrimental in real time. When the COVID crisis struck in 2020 and people were dying by the thousands, he said that residents were desperately calling all assembly members and city council members for help and a testing center.

"You're on Facebook seeing all these virtual memorials happening for some-

the definition of gerrymandering: fracturing a community based on racial identity. He said if there had been a central representative to advocate for them, the COVID crisis might not have claimed so many lives.

Recent redistricting rounds split the community into three assembly districts, but the process is still dragging on after failing to reach a cohesive decision about voting maps last year. A special master was then appointed to redraw maps. He put Little Guyana into a single assembly district for the first time in history, although they are still left without a singular city council or senate district.

This week, another series of public hearings is being held on the assembly district voting maps. It's one of the last chances the community has to hold onto a singular district, because the map is subject to change later.

In preparation for the hearings, groups like the Caribbean Equality Project and South Queens Women's March under the umbrella of the Asian Pacific American Voting and Organizing to Increase Civic Engagement's (APVOCICE) Redistricting Task Force joined together last Thursday to inform the community about what's going on and recruit people who would testify.

"I grew up here, so this issue is deeply personal to me," said South Queens Women's March Founder and Direc-

for elected office and lost. And that's important because when we talk about this issue of redistricting, we're talking about the fact that our communities have historically been chopped up in so many different pieces that it practically makes it impossible for a candidate (who) comes out of our community of interest to win."

Despite the advocates' clear passion, this is not the easiest topic to get people involved in. Redistricting can move at a glacial pace and unexciting when it requires attending hours-long meetings. Still Amin, Narine, and other speakers stressed the importance of the process in allocating resources like healthcare, education, transportation, jobs, housing, and public safety to the community.

"Over the past 50 years, we have seen the power of visibility—the power of community and the power of Asian diversity. Often, in the redistricting process, our Asian American communities of interest have been neglected to the point where our communities are divided between multiple Assembly districts," said Amin. "We have seen this throughout NYC, which makes it far more challenging for Asian Americans to have our cultural and linguistic needs taken seriously by elected officials."

District leader Richard Davila's family immigrated to the city in 1991 and he has lived in the neighborhood since 1996. His parents were working class parents

**SECOND PLACE — DIVISION 2**  
**ARIAMA LONG**  
**NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS**

The judges said: "Entries highlight relevant news for the community in a well-articulated manner. Photos provide good supplemental material to accompany article."

NIAGARA GAZETTE  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4-5, 2023  
Niagara Falls, New York • \$3.00

TO THE POINT  
**Preferred housing developer still in play**

Mayor says he has asked main choice to lead \$2.5M renovation effort for more detail on finances, partnerships

BY MARK SCHEER  
NIAGARA GAZETTE

The Village Sun is a leading local news outlet in the Buffalo, New York area. It provides comprehensive coverage of local events, politics, and community issues. The website features a clean design and easy navigation, making it a go-to source for residents.

**THIRD PLACE — DIVISION 1**  
**MARK SCHEER, RICK PFEIFFER**  
**NIAGARA GAZETTE**

The judges said: "Topics are relevant issues of community concern/interest. Reports are very well-written. Photographs provide a great supplement to the stories."

The PORT TIMES RECORD  
PORT JEFFERSON • BELLE TERRE • POINT JEFFERSON STATION • TONAWANDA  
March 8, 2023

**Community Choice Aggregation**

Brookhaven joins energy revolution

2023 Oscar nominations, picks and how to watch

**THIRD PLACE — DIVISION 2**  
**RAYMOND JANIS AND LYNN HALLARMAN**  
**PORT TIMES RECORD**

The judges said: "Excellent layout. Reports are eye-catching and cover a variety of controversial local government topics."



# 2023 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## *The Highlands Current & Times Union*



Last year these same two newspapers- one a weekly and one a daily - tied for Newspaper of the Year honors. It is amazing and unprecedented to have them repeat this amazing feat. Both newspapers earned 185 total contest points in this contest. *The Highlands Current* staff won Photographer of the Year, and first-place awards for Business Coverage, Feature Story (one of the most competitive categories in the contest), Graphic Illustration, and ran the category, taking first, second and third place awards for Best Small Space Ad. The *Times Union* won first place awards for In Depth Reporting, Coverage of Health Care, Spot News, News Story (an extremely competitive category), Editorials, Sports Feature Photo, and Best Podcast.

*Congratulations to the New York Press Association's Newspapers of the Year!*



### 2023 STUART C. DORMAN AWARD FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

#### *Times Union*

In a closely contested race, the *Times Union* earned 150 editorial contest points. Josh Solomon earned a first-place award for his In Depth reporting on Doc Go. Rachel Silberstein earned first-place for Health reporting. Brendan Lyons, Lauren Stanforth and Steve Hughes earned a first-place award for Spot News coverage and Phil Pantuso for his well-written News Story.

*Congratulations to the Times Union!*

### 2023 JOHN J. EVANS AWARD FOR ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

#### *Dan's Papers*

*Congratulations* to *Dan's Papers* for earning 60 points in the advertising contest, garnering first-place awards for Advertising Excellence, Best Special Section Advertising and Best Large Space Ad.

#### STUART C. DORMAN

Stuart Callender Dorman established a precedent for excellence in publishing when he owned the *Suffolk Times* (1969 - 1978) 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    | 2007 - The Riverdale Press                 |
| 1991 - The Riverdale Press    | 2008 - The North Shore Sun                 |
| 1992 - The Riverdale Press    | 2009 - The Suffolk Times                   |
| 1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | 2010 - Long Island Press                   |
| 1994 - The Riverdale Press    | 2011 - The Sag Harbor Express              |
| 1995 - The Cuba Patriot       | 2012 - Long Island Press                   |
| 1996 - The Record-Review      | 2013 - The News-Review                     |
| 1997 - The Record-Review      | 2014 - The Suffolk Times                   |
| 1998 - The Record-Review      | 2015 - The Sag Harbor Express              |
| 1999 - The Record-Review      | 2016 - The Sag Harbor Express              |
| 2000 - The Sag Harbor Express | 2017 - The Sag Harbor Express              |
| 2001 - The Villager (NYC)     | 2018 - The Suffolk Times                   |
| 2002 - The Record-Review      | 2019 - The Independent                     |
| 2003 - The Sag Harbor Express | 2020 - Southampton Press - Eastern Edition |
| 2004 - The Villager (NYC)     | 2021 - The Sag Harbor Express              |
| 2005 - The Villager (NYC)     | 2022 - The Times Union                     |
| 2006 - The North Shore Sun    |  |

#### 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 NYPA members with their advertising programs, the NYPA Board of Directors established the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence in 1990.



#### JOHN J. EVANS AWARD

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



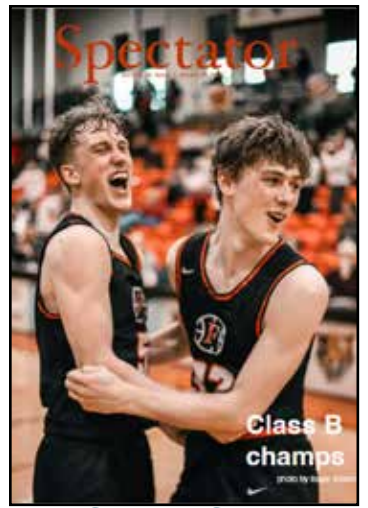
# 2023 BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

## The Spectator

The student-run newspaper of the Fredonia Central School District is the 2023 Best High School Newspaper. The staff of The Spectator earned 100 points including four first place awards, winning General Excellence, Design, Photography, and Sports Story. The newspaper is beautifully designed, great page layouts, terrific photos run large, relevant story ideas, good headlines. This is the total package. Congratulations!

Congratulations to all high school competitors - your work is inspiring!

*Congratulations to all high school competitors!*



### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

#### FIRST PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA

Just a beautiful example of what student newspapers should be: Relevant stories, clear writing, great design choices and captivating photography.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### MANOR INK, LIVINGSTON MANOR

Manor Ink excels in reporting the news of its community. Stories and headlines are well-written, photos are good, and the design is elegant.

#### THIRD PLACE

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK

Kudos to the Horizon staff for producing a paper full of energy, innovation and fascinating content.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### THE LAMPION, FAIRPORT

A nice mix of stories.

### NEWS STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

##### MANOR INK, LIVINGSTON MANOR Angie Hund

In an incredibly competitive category, Hund's story stood out as compelling, relevant, well-researched and clearly written.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### THE VERDICT, BAYSIDE Shamar Mills and Jonathan Too

A great example of explanatory journalism.

#### THIRD PLACE

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK Amelia Doyle

Doyle does a good job of covering students putting their environmental concerns into action.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### TOWER, DOBBS FERRY Lily Zuckerman

Zuckerman does a stellar job of handling a complicated but very real issue for high school students.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Benjamin Feit

Feit includes all the essential elements for a solid hard-news story that informs readers about an issue affecting their daily lives.

### FEATURE STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

##### MANOR INK, LIVINGSTON MANOR Rachel Zuckerman

Interesting Topic; good use of photos, side Bar / points of interest good

#### SECOND PLACE

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK

Madeleine Malinka  
Interesting topic, lede caught attention, nice photo could have used additional graphics

#### THIRD PLACE

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK

Cassandra Levinson  
Excellent title, good topic, needed more photos

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### MANOR INK, LIVINGSTON MANOR Savannah Chaboty

Plenty of photos, strong layout supported the story

### COLUMN

#### FIRST PLACE

##### MANOR INK, LIVINGSTON MANOR Angie Hund

By writing about why sanitary products should be free in restrooms, Hund superbly tackles a too often overlooked topic.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Owyn Darrell-Sterbak

Columns should offer fresh perspectives and new ideas and Darrell-Sterbak does that via a writing style that is both clear and well-organized.

#### THIRD PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Alexander Weiss

While I admired Weiss' farewell column, I loved his tirade about haphazard parking in the school parking lot.

### DESIGN

#### FIRST PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA

Loved the front page layout! Photo of players celebrating their big win certainly will attract eyes.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### HOOFBEATS, MERRICK

Clean layout. I like the teaser boxes at the bottom of the page.

#### THIRD PLACE

##### SCHREIBER TIMES, PORT WASHINGTON

Clean layout. Like the page 2 index of stories.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK

Good layout.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### FIRST PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Isaac Williams

Great photo certain to captivate readers and grab their attention. Great job of showing students relieving stress at a pep rally. Good composition and lighting.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### TOWER, DOBBS FERRY Xavier Rolston

Great action shot. You did an excellent job of capturing the emotion of the contest — some competitors' faces showing strain and other faces showing enjoyment. Great job!

#### THIRD PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Isaac Williams

Good photo! The player's face really shows his concentration

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Hailey Hood

Good job!

### BEST SPORTS STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Emma Putney

Great job. Good lede. Good use of quotes and getting names in the story. Also, good job of organizing the story so your readers could follow it without getting lost. No doubt, I will see your sports byline in the national media someday.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### THE SPECTATOR, FREDONIA Angelina May

Good job of explaining a new sport on campus. Good use of quotes. Lots of names!

#### THIRD PLACE

##### TOWER, DOBBS FERRY Neena Atkins and Allie Faber

Interesting story. Good use of quotes. Well-written report.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### SCHREIBER TIMES, PORT WASHINGTON Leo Schwartz

Good lede sentence that tells readers everything they need to know up front: the boys' soccer team had an incredible season. And great job of getting so many names in the paper. That's why parents and grandparents buy newspapers! Also, good use of quotes.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK Colette Doyle

Nice advance of athlete headed to state competition.

### BEST WEB SITE

#### FIRST PLACE

##### TOWER, DOBBS FERRY

Strong art, fresh content and innovation made the Tower website stand out in a very competitive field.

#### SECOND PLACE

##### HORIZON, LYNBROOK

Simple but strong defines this website, with clear design and a fresh batch of topical stories to keep readers returning.

#### THIRD PLACE

##### THE VERDICT, BAYSIDE

Great website with a good mix of fresh, local stories.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

##### THE PHOENIX, UNIONDALE Michelle Paszek

Clean, well-organized site with strong visual appeal.



## 2023 BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

# The Ithacan

*The Ithacan is the 2023 winner of the Best College Newspaper Contest. Earning 120 points including first-place awards for General Excellence, Feature Story, Photography, Sports Coverage, and Best Web Site. This student-run newspaper has it all and does it right. Page layouts are attractive, enticing and organized. Great photography. Chock full of beautifully designed ads. Web site engaging and organized. Great editorial page. Coverage is broad, sports coverage is amazing - we want to hire you! Great work!*



### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

#### FIRST PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

Great stories, captivating photos and beautiful design made The Ithacan stand out in this very competitive field. This paper knows its audience and knows how to produce content that will engage them. Loved the editorials, the graphics and the headlines!

#### SECOND PLACE

THE LEADER

FREDONIA

The Leader covers the basics when it comes to journalism: Good story selection, clear writing and illustrative photos. But it stood out in this competitive field for its innovative way of approaching each issue.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE STATESMAN

STONY BROOK

*Viola Flowers, Kat Procacci, Maria Lynders and Tim Giorlando*  
The Statesman tackles big topics in big issues that showcase solid reporting and writing. Relevant graphics and clean design brought elegance to the publication.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

CARDINAL POINTS

PLATTSBURGH

Solid paper covering all the bases.

#### NEWS STORY

##### FIRST PLACE

THE CHRONICLE

ALBANY

*MaKenna Williams*

Williams does a stellar job of covering all the angles and holding college officials accountable in her breaking news coverage of the college's closing.

##### SECOND PLACE

VANGUARD

BROOKLYN

*Kate Dempsey*

Dempsey does a professional job of covering all the incredibly controversial issues that came with college protests in the fall of 2023.

##### THIRD PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

*Caitlin Holtzman*

Holtzman takes on a complicated topic and does it justice, with good research and solid efforts to produce a well-rounded article.

*Congratulations to all the entrants in the college newspaper contest!*

#### HONORABLE MENTION

CARDINAL POINTS

PLATTSBURGH

*Aleksandra Sidorova*

AI is such an abstract topic that it can be hard to cover. Sidorova made AI real and concrete for the reader, producing a story that was both fascinating and relevant.

#### FEATURE STORY

##### FIRST PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

*Aidan Charde*

Compelling topic deftly executed. In a category filled with great stories, this one stood out because of its reporting and writing. This is an important campus issue and I'm sure "Athletes get blunt about weed" was well-read.

##### SECOND PLACE

THE CHRONICLE

ALBANY

*Mia Quick*

A different kind of feature story for a college newspaper but one that was a breath of fresh air. Clearly written, compelling and well-researched.

##### THIRD PLACE

THE IMPACT

DOBBS FERRY

*Diannah Plaisir*

I loved how the writer developed this story.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

*Ray Milburn*

A wonderful story well told.

#### COLUMN

##### FIRST PLACE

THE LEADER

FREDONIA

*Marissa Burr*

Burr's skill is evident in both columns, which demonstrate the persuasive power of fine writing combined with solid research.

##### SECOND PLACE

THE IMPACT

DOBBS FERRY

*Carla Gradiz*

The best columns show you new perspectives and Gradiz does this with aplomb.

#### THIRD PLACE

CAMPUS TIMES

ROCHESTER

*Sunahra Tanvir*

Tanvir used just the needed bit of restraint to make this column sing with hope.

#### DESIGN

##### FIRST PLACE

CONCORDIENSIS

SCHENECTADY

Good design supports content, and this well-designed paper does just that, with just enough flash to catch the reader's attention. Solid organization and adherence to style illustrate the value design brings to the final product.

##### SECOND PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

Useful and insightful graphics made this entry stand out. I also appreciated the restraint exercised in use of fonts that were fun and reflective of the content.

##### THIRD PLACE

THE STATESMAN

STONY BROOK

*Viola Flowers, Kat Procacci,*

*Maria Lynders and*

*Tim Giorlando*

Clearly *The Statesman* knows how to grab their readers' attention with headlines, art and clear design. Special kudos to those who researched and designed the graphic illustrations.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

##### FIRST PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

*Xinyi Qin*

This photo is technically crisp, with sharp details and great use of lighting. That skill does justice to the fun, energetic and entertaining content.

##### SECOND PLACE

THE LEADER

FREDONIA

*Drew Paluch*

Talk about dramatic! Wonderful composition and amazing use of light made these photos show-stoppers.

#### THIRD PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

*Nolan Saunders*

A great photo tells a great story and this sports celebration photo did just that. The photographer caught the glee at just the right moment. Photo also well composed and nice and sharp.

#### BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

##### FIRST PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

Stunningly good sports section. Story choice was exemplary, design was beautiful and photos captured important moments.

##### SECOND PLACE

THE CHRONICLE

ALBANY

From breaking news to game coverage, Chronicle coverage was solid, timely and well-written.

##### THIRD PLACE

CARDINAL POINTS

PLATTSBURGH

This is a real workhorse of a sports department, with solid, insightful reporting sports lovers can rely on.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

THE LAMRON

GENESEO

#### BEST WEB SITE

##### FIRST PLACE

THE ITHACAN

ITHACA

Design makes this website easy to navigate but what really made it stand out was its content. The site is frequently updated and full of content that illustrates the power of digital storytelling.

##### SECOND PLACE

THE STATESMAN

STONY BROOK

*Viola Flowers, Lori Saxena, Skylar Sena and Liam Cooke*

This site does a stellar job of organizing and displaying in-depth content. I loved the easy-to-read story pages.

##### THIRD PLACE

THE IMPACT

DOBBS FERRY

Nice mix of news, good integration with social media and easy to navigate.



# Congrats

**To all of our winners!**



NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST 2023