

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
2024 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



# *Celebrating*

Newspaper Excellence



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PHOTO CREDITS

FRONT COVER

TOP: High school hurdler, Todd Sliss, *The Raider/Panther Reporter*

BOTTOM LEFT: Baby lizard, Lori Van Buren, *Times Union*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Fire dancer, Dana Shaw, *Sag Harbor Express*

BACK COVER

TOP RIGHT: Profile, Jeremy Garretson, *The Suffolk Times*

TOP LEFT: High school hoops, Peggy Gallery, North Shore News Group

LEFT: Solar Eclipse, Ben Rowe, *Press Republican*

RIGHT: Child Friends, Ross Corsair, *The Highlands Current*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Durrell Godfrey, *The East Hampton Star*

And the winners are:  
Newspaper of the Year  
Times Union

STUART C. DORMAN AWARD  
Editorial Excellence

Times Union

2024 WRITER OF THE YEAR

Helina Selemon

New York Amsterdam News

2024 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

Mike Macadam

The Daily Gazette

JOHN J. EVANS AWARD  
Advertising Excellence

The East Hampton Press

2024 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Lauren Royce

The Palladium Times

2024 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Peggy Gallery

The Northport Observer

PAST PRESIDENTS’ AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

The Southampton Press-Eastern — First Place

The Southampton Press-Western — Second Place

Sag Harbor Express — Third Place

BEST FRONT PAGE

Southampton Press-Eastern — First Place

The (Delmar) Spotlight — Second Place

Southampton Press-Western — Third Place

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Times Union — First Place

Queens Chronicle — Second Place

Shelter Island Reporter — Third Place

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

The East Hampton Press — First Place

The Northport Observer — Second Place

Sag Harbor Express — Third Place

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

The Southampton Press-Eastern — First Place

The Highlands Current — Second Place

Sag Harbor Express — Third Place

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

Sag Harbor Express — First Place

The East Hampton Press — Second Place

Southampton Press-Western — Third Place



# About the 2024 Better Newspaper Contest

*132 newspapers participated submitting 2,082 entries.*

*Participating newspapers competed for awards in 68 categories, and for Newspaper of the Year, the Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence and the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence.*

*In all, 280 awards were presented during NYPA's Spring Conference March 20-21, 2025.*

*The entries were judged by members of the Missouri 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**

## **Top Five – Group or Chain Newspapers**

### **The Express News Group - 590 points**

The Express News Group earned 590 total contest points including 18 first-place awards, 13 second-place awards and 12 third-place awards. First-place awards included Past Presidents' Award, Best Front Page, Photographic Excellence, Overall Design Excellence, Advertising Excellence, Community Leadership, Headline Writing, Sports Feature, Sports Coverage, Editorial Cartoon, Feature Photo, Sports Action Photo, Picture Story, Special Sections/Niche Publications-Glossy, Real Estate/Home Section, Multi-Advertiser Pages, Best Themed Issue and Best Podcast.

### **Schneps Community News Group- 440 points**

The Schneps Community News Group earned 440 total contest points include 10 first-place awards, 14 second-place awards and 13 third-place awards. First-place awards included Coverage of Local Government, Coverage of the Environment, Solutions Journalism Project, Spot News Coverage, News Story, Special Section Cover, Special Sections/Niche Publications-Newsprint, Large Space Ad, House Ad and Innovative Ad Project.

### **The North Shore News Group - 160 points**

The North Shore News Group earned 160 total contest points including 5 first-place awards, 3 second-place awards and 5 third-place awards. First-place awards included Photographer of the Year, Obituaries, Editorials, Freedom of Information Award and Special Sections/Niche Publications -Newsprint.

### **Times/Review Newspapers - 120 points**

The Times/Review Newspapers earned 120 total contest points including 3 first-place awards, 4 second-place awards and 4 third-place awards. First-place awards included News Story, Column and Personality Profile.

### **Straus News - 120 points**

Straus News earned 120 total contest points including 4 first-place awards, 3 second-place awards and 2 third-place awards. First-place awards included Coverage of Local Government; Coverage of Business, Financial and Economic News; Advertising Campaign and Small Space Ad.

## **The Top Five – Single Flag Newspapers**

Times Union..... 430 points

The East Hampton Press ..... 285 points

The Highlands Current ..... 215 points

Sag Harbor Express ..... 125 points

Dan's Paper ..... 120 points

## **The Top Five – Total Editorial Points**

Times Union ..... 410 points

The East Hampton Press..... 160 points

The Highlands Current..... 135 points

Sag Harbor Express..... 85 points

amNewYork Metro ..... 80 points

## **The Top Five - Total Advertising Points**

The East Hampton Press..... 85 points

Dan's Paper ..... 80 points

Warwick Advertiser ..... 50 points

The Garden City News ..... 30 points

The Village Times Herald ..... 25 points

Amherst Bee ..... 25 points

# Excellence Awards

## *Past Presidents' Award*

First Place

### **Southampton Press- Eastern Edition**

Southampton

Impressive from start to finish. Neat, clean presentation. News coverage was solid. Layout and design throughout the editions were strong. Opinion pages were well done (design and array of content). Arts and entertainment coverage, as well as design of those pages, especially good. Advertising content was strong, especially great real estate advertising. Finally, print quality was outstanding.

## *Past Presidents' Award*

Second Place

### **Southampton Press - Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

As might be expected, with a sister publication winning this category, this entry is STRONG. Lots of news in these entries. Page design is a plus. Varied page design was lively and enticing. Local pictures were notable (kudos to photogs). Clean, crisp presentation and publication. Advertising was well done, as well.

## *Past Presidents' Award*

Third Place

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

In this judge's opinion, this publication provided the best news coverage of the publications in the category. Lots of multiple - source reporting and depth to coverage. Local art was strong. Page design was also well done. The front page was the class of the category (liked the layout tools and art).

## *“Rookie” Reporter of the Year*

First Place

### **The Palladium Times**

Oswego

#### **Lauren Royce**

Keep up the great work, Lauren! Her style of writing is perfect for feature articles - introducing the readers well to events/people.

## *“Rookie” Reporter of the Year*

Second Place

### **Sea Cliff/Glen Head Herald**

Garden City

#### **Brian Norman**

Reporter does a great job conveying story

to readers, whether the subject be “hard” news or a feature article.

## *“Rookie” Reporter of the Year*

Third Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Chris Hippensteel**

Utmost respect to investigative reporters for finding the root of the story. Good job!

## *Writer of the Year*

First Place

### **New York Amsterdam**

#### **News**

New York

#### **Helina Selemon**

Engaging personal stories and thorough reporting. Very impactful

## *Writer of the Year*

Second Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Emilie Munson**

Impressive investigative, research oriented pieces; well written stories on important local issues. Hats off! Great work.

## *Writer of the Year*

Third Place

### **Westmore News**

Port Chester

#### **Sarah Wolpoff**

Ballerinas to buyouts for flood - prone properties to family farming. Impressive breadth of material, well written, well presented.

## *Sports Writer of the Year*

First Place

### **Daily Gazette**

Schenectady

#### **Mike Macadam**

The most readable of the entrants and had a wide range of subjects. Particularly liked the Pickleball “participatory journalism” angle. George Plimpton would be proud.

## *Sports Writer of the Year*

Second Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Mark Singelais**

Solid writing. Good ledes and readable stories. You write great reads.

## *Sports Writer of the Year*

Third Place

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

#### **Tom Allegra**

Very good writing. Really enjoyed how you attacked the Rolling Thunder story. Never easy to be able to cover an event like that. Kudos for getting statements from the runners to make it much more than a listing of places and times.

## *Photographer of the Year*

First Place

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

#### **Peggy Gallery**

This portfolio if full of faces and emotion on clean backgrounds. The essence of competition and relationship is clearly communicated. The photographer spends most of her time as a sports photojournalist, documenting the action on the field. There are multiple images of peak action, however, they don't stop there. Some of the most storytelling images happen after the game. Patience and observation are wonderful traits that carry this portfolio.

## *Photographer of the Year*

Second Place

### **East Hampton Star,**

East Hampton

#### **Durell Godfrey**

This photographer understands the community and shows wisdom in how to document the daily life of the residents. Clearly, the landscape of this region is a large part of the community identity and this photographer capitalizes on the human interaction with the environment. This is a pretty lovely canvas to photograph against. The photography is sometimes quite quiet and thoughtful. There's an attention to the small daily happenings that make this place special.

## *Photographer of the Year*

Third Place

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

#### **Anthony Lifrieri**

This photographer has fun and captures the personality of the subjects in the photos. There is laughter and joy and drama. There's a determined attentiveness by this photographer to capture honest emotion from the people in front of the camera. The difficulty level in this approach is high, making for some powerful singular images.

## *Best Front Page*

First Place

### **Southampton Press-**

#### **Eastern Edition**

Southampton

Best of the best. Sensational Feb. 1 entry. Great use of cutouts Dec. 5.

## *Best Front Page*

Second Place

### **The Spotlight (Delmar)**

Delmar

#### **Amaris Ford, Michael Hallisey and Dave Abbott**

Sensational pages! You take your unusual size format and run with it. A very nice look.

## *Best Front Page*

Third Place

### **Southampton Press-**

#### **Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

A very nice look. Great use of photos. Especially like Aug 15 issue. Tough category.

## *Best Editorial Page*

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

Very good looking editorial section. Just a wow section. Only suggestion is to add an editorial cartoon.

## *Best Editorial Page*

Second Place

### **Queens Chronicle**

Glendale

#### **Peter C. Mastro Simone and Gregg Cohen**

Lots of important local content/art and cartoons.

## *Best Editorial Page*

Third Place

### **Shelter Island Reporter**

Mattituck

#### **Ambrose Clancy**

Great local content. Design flow is really good and good use of art.

## *Photographic Excellence*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Impressive covers for all sections in each edition provided. Photos are attention-grabbing. Good solid captions. Peak local interest and have a good originality to them.



# Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2024

There were 10 entries in this category



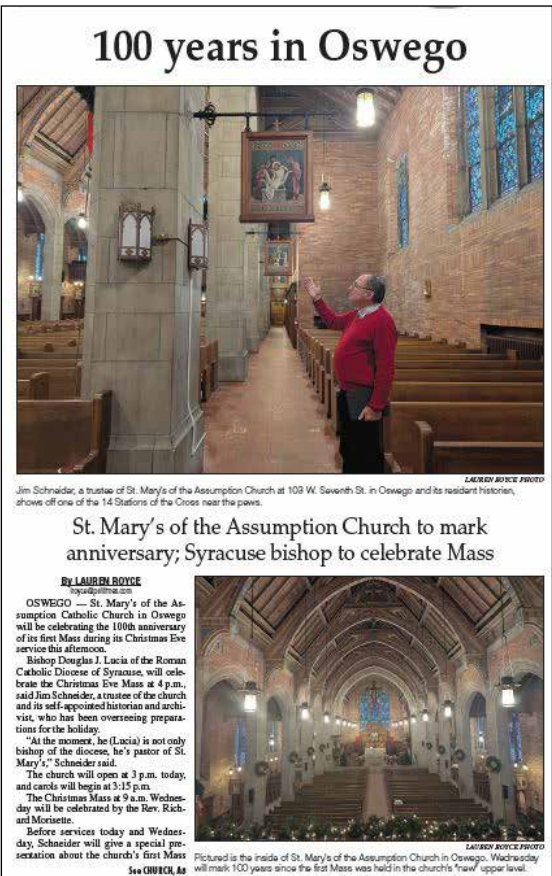
## First Place

**Lauren Royce**

**THE PALLADIUM TIMES**

“In many instances I have had people tell me that what I do is important to them, and that they still enjoy reading their local paper to get the news closest to them,” Lauren said. “I consider it an honor to be there to document people’s achievements, successes, new beginnings and their joys in coming to Oswego for the first or hundredth time.”

*The judges said: “Keep up the great work, Lauren! Her style of writing is perfect for feature articles - introducing the readers well to events/people.”*



## Second Place

**Brian Norman**

**SEA CLIFF/GLEN HEAD HERALD**

Brian Norman is currently a reporter for the *Sea/Cliff and Glen Head Herald*. He started working full time with the Herald in September of 2024. Prior to that he was an intern with the Herald for three months. Norman graduated with a B.S. in Journalism from Quinnipiac University in May 2024, where he was a freelance sports writer for *The Record Journal*, as well as a on-air broadcaster with the Quinnipiac Bobcat Sports Network. While at the *Herald*, Norman has covered variety of topics including local government, education, environmental groups and sports. Having formed good relationships with the local school districts, Norman enjoys covering education-centered stories and creating strong community ties with local students, parents, and faculty.

*The judges said: “Reporter does a great job conveying story to readers, whether the subject be “hard” news or a feature article.”*



## Third Place

**Chris Hippensteel**

**TIMES UNION**

Chris Hippensteel is a Joseph T. Lyons Investigative Fellow for the Times Union.

Originally from near Allentown, Pennsylvania, he’s previously reported for *The Daily Beast*, *The Tampa Bay Times*, CNN, and PublicSource, an investigative nonprofit based in Pittsburgh. Chris graduated in 2023 from Syracuse University, where he was an editor for the student newspaper, *The Daily Orange*.





# Excellence Awards

## *Photographic Excellence*

Second Place

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

Eye catching covers. Great photo display, cropping and composition.

## *Photographic Excellence*

Third Place

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

Good covers. I appreciate the use of the photos under the masthead. Good sports photos. Personally would give them more space, but I understand that can be limited. But parents love it. Quality captions and layout.

## *Overall Design Excellence*

First Place

### **Southampton Press**

#### **-Eastern Edition**

Southampton

### **Sara Mannino Kent and Kerri Cunningham**

Engaging front page with varied use of typography and imagery that draws the reader in. Well designed inside pages that are chock full of content. Advertising is clearly healthy but does not overwhelm the pages. Photography helps tell the stories.

## *Overall Design Excellence*

Second Place

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Pierce Strudler**

Your front page is full of stories that are sure to catch any reader's eye. I would love to see a larger photo on the front. The inside pages are well laid out with a diversity of features that feel cohesive while remaining distinctive. The advertising is well organized.

## *Overall Design Excellence*

Third Place

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

### **Sara Mannino Kent and Kerri Cunningham**

Nice organization on the cover with a dominant image. Nice variety of fonts and feature designs to draw the reader in and keep them interested. The Residence section is engaging.

## *Advertising Excellence*

First Place

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

Well designed ads, good clean layout with top notch business and service directory for small businesses, plus open and clean classified pages

## *Advertising Excellence*

Second Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Advertising is clearly treated as valuable content. Attentive, attractive, and well written.

## *Advertising Excellence*

Third Place

### **Southampton Press-**

#### **Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

Consistent quality – impactful, attractive, command attention.

## *Community Leadership*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

First, I love the opinion page of this publication. It seems like it would resonate with readers. What sets this entry apart is the follow through from news to editorial content. This paper claims its power to influence as a news source and tastemaker - and used it to accomplish some thing positive for their community.

## *Community Leadership*

Second Place

### **PeekskillHerald.com**

Peekskill

#### **Regina Clarkin and Jim**

#### **Roberts**

It's a really interesting project– wish we knew more about the impact.

## *Community Leadership*

Third Place

### **The News-Review**

Mattituck

A great use of the paper's existing influence in the community, but falling short of the positive impact this category requires.

## *Best News Web Site*

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

Good mix of news and ads. It's easy to read on desktop and mobile. Bill tracker is great.

## *Best News Web Site*

Second Place

### **The Ithaca Voice**

Ithaca

Really nice donation banner -- not too intrusive but catches your attention. On desktop, great amount of headlines before scrolling. Mobile is easy to navigate.

## *Best News Web Site*

Third Place

### **Adirondack Explorer**

Saranac Lake

#### **Melissa Hart**

Strong mobile experience.

## *A-Mark Foundation*

### *Award for Investigative*

#### *Reporting*

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Emilie Munson, Chris**

#### **Hippensteel, Brendan Lyons,**

#### **Taylor Johnston and**

#### **Alexandra Harris**

In a category with about 60 entries, this one clearly stood out from the rest. This series had it all: It thoroughly identified the problem through extensive research, detailed how others are successfully dealing with it, reported the effects the problem has caused in several people's lives, and prompted action from state legislators to address it. Great team effort.

## *A-Mark Foundation*

### *Award for Investigative*

#### *Reporting*

Second Place

### **The Examiner**

Mount Kisco

#### **Adam Stone**

In a word: Wow. This one-man crusade, exposing the sometimes - nefarious inner workings of theUnited Health Care Group and its subsidiaries, was as impressive as thorough. The amount of research, detail and insider interviews reflected a Herculean effort. Then in a morbid piece of Journalism Karma, the series wrapped up (this year at least) with a made -for - tv conclusion. Great work Adam.

## *A-Mark Foundation*

### *Award for Investigative*

#### *Reporting*

Third Place

### **Park Slope Courier**

Brooklyn

#### **Anna Bradley-Smith**

Arguably the toughest decision to make was choosing the third-place winner, of which there were several worthwhile candidates. This story though stood out due to its unique nature and how well the writer wrote the piece. Great job detailing the newest version of what seems like corporate/white collar crime.

## *Coverage of Local*

### *Government*

First Place, Division 1

### **Fire Island and Great**

#### **South Bay News**

West Hempstead

#### **Skylar Epstein, Linda Leuzzi**

#### **and Timothy Bolger**

Excellent work. This is what local news is all about.

## *Coverage of Local*

### *Government*

Second Place, Division 1

### **New Pine Plains Herald**

Pine Plains

#### **Patrick Grego**

Good work here. The community should be proud.

## *Coverage of Local*

### *Government*

Third Place, Division 1

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Lincoln Anderson and Phyllis**

#### **Eckhaus**

Great local content! Excellent information for readers.

## *Coverage of Local*

### *Government*

First Place, Division 2

### **Warwick Advertiser**

Chester

#### **Becca Tucker, Molly Colgan**

#### **and Gail Hoffer-Loibl**

Well done! As many writers are cutting corners and going the easy route to get a story, it's above and beyond, in-depth reporting like this the readers deserve, and I hope, appreciate.

# Writer of the Year, 2024

There were 29 entries in this category



## First Place

**Helina Selemon**

### NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

Helina Selemon is a health and science journalist for The Blacklight, an investigative unit for the *New York Amsterdam News* where she reports on COVID-19, climate change, and public health responses to gun violence. She previously worked in audience development and engagement for the health & science team at The Associated Press. Helina is also an experienced news researcher and trainer, having worked with the Ida B. Wells Society, UC Berkeley, and the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. As a freelancer, Helina contributed to reporting or fact-checking for health and science publications such as Popular Science, Spectrum, The Trace, GastroEndo News and WBAI show Healthstyle.



The judges said: "Engaging personal stories and thorough reporting. Very impactful"



## Second Place

**Emilie Munson**

### TIMES UNION

Munson's investigations blend data analysis, public records, interviews and shoe-leather reporting. She is skilled at getting recalcitrant public agencies to produce hard-to-access records. She wrestles data in Excel and the coding language Python to extract meaningful insights. When the data does not exist, she is unafraid to build her own databases with meticulous research—like one that for the first time revealed the number of people who died from police pursuits in New York since 2012. Munson also produces data visualizations for her stories and her colleagues. She has coached other *Times Union* reporters on data and public records skills.



## Third Place

**Sarah Wolpoff**

### WESTMORE NEWS

Sarah Wolpoff is the assistant editor for the *Westmore News*, a weekly Westchester newspaper covering the villages of Port Chester and Rye Brook. Growing up in a small town near Ann Arbor, Michigan, she moved to New York in November 2017 to join the *Westmore News* as a general reporter and has since ascended into the assistant editor position where she manages the newsroom. Wolpoff's wide breadth of stories range from education issues, to immigration, to politics, and she is particularly attracted to tackling emotionally-driven features. Passionate about uncovering wrongdoings, holding the powerful accountable for their actions and giving a voice to marginalized populations, her work has been recognized in contests hosted by the Michigan Press Association, New York Press Association and the Society of Professional Journalists.





# Excellence Awards

## *Coverage of Local Government*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Rye Record**

Rye

**Christian Falcone and Jon Elsen**

Great reporting on an interesting hot topic with a huge impact on the community. Sometimes stories like this get overlooked by reporters unless you're really tuned in to the key people involved. I thought the tie into politics was so important in this issue.

## *Coverage of Local Government*

Third Place, Division 2

### **North Country This Week**

Potsdam

**Jimmy Lawton**

Each article was well written. A reader could get bogged down with so much information, but each kept my attention with a great lead and follow-through reporting.

## *Coverage of Education*

First Place, Division 1

### **City & State**

New York

**Sahalie Donaldson, Annie**

**McDonough, Holly Pretsky and Peter Sterne**

Thorough and even-handed coverage of a complicated issue. This groups of stories did as good a job of explaining this story as any I've read in the national press.

## *Coverage of Education*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Red Hook Daily Catch**

Red Hook

**Grace Molenda and Elena Gastaldo**

Excellent coverage of a crucial issue that most every community in America faces. The newspaper's coverage seems to have contributed to action.

## *Coverage of Education*

Third Place, Division 1

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

**Jeff Simms, Joey Asher and Leonard Sparks**

I loved the mix of human-interest, in-depth reporting on important issues, and lighter coverage in this entry.

## *Coverage of Education*

First Place, Division 2

### **Times Union**

Albany

**Kathleen Moore**

The story on the mother of the son who has autism is truly compelling. Excellence use of data in the story about kids missing school. Thorough coverage of the closure of a small college. Excellentcommunity-focused education reporting.

## *Coverage of Education*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Photo News**

Chester

**Molly Colgan and Becca**

**Tucker**

I like that these stories move beyond the board's agenda. They get to the level of students and parents -- in other words, what's really going on the schools.

## *Coverage of Education*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

**David Ambro**

I appreciate— as should the citizens of your community — that you are trying to hold public officials accountable for following your state's open - records law. It's such an important tool for overing public education.

## *Coverage of Business, Financial & Economic News*

First Place

### **Warwick Advertiser**

Chester

**Becca Tucker, Mike Oreskes,**

**Mandy Coriston and Gail**

**Hoffer-Loibl**

Your coverage is hyper-focused on your community. The stories are detailed. The corresponding graphics and photos are engaging. Careful reporting certainly pays off for your readers, with coverage they won't find anywhere else.

## *Coverage of Business, Financial & Economic News*

Second Place

### **Red Hook Daily Catch**

Red Hook

**Michael Frank, Grace Molenda and Kathryn Wheeler**

Detailed reporting that's hyper-local. Enjoyed the long form stories and the

variety of coverage. The donut story is a good accountability piece, too.

## *Coverage of Business, Financial & Economic News*

Third Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

**Kelsey Brown**

Nice variety in the pieces. Shows a breadth of understanding in business reporting.

## *Coverage of the Arts*

First Place. Division 1

### **New Pine Plains Herald**

Pine Plains

**Patrick Grego, R.A. Hermans,**

**Lenora Champagne and Peter**

**Klebnikov**

Tremendous writing on a variety of arts topics all tied deeply to the community.

## *Coverage of the Arts*

Second Place, Division 1

### **The Brooklyn Paper**

Brooklyn

**Kirstyn Brendlen, Adam Daly and Gabriele Holtermann**

Fun! This truly-local arts coverage showcases the color and character of Brooklyn's art scene, and should make any reader feel part of the joy.

## *Coverage of the Arts*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

**Annette Hinkle**

Strong writing, a focus on connecting the art back to the community and clear prioritization by the staff lift the Sag Harbor Express up in a category of great entries.

## *Coverage of the Arts*

First Place, Division 2

### **Times Union**

Albany

**Steve Barnes and Katherine**

**Kiessling**

A great job of featuring both accomplished locals in the arts and ties between the arts and marginalized communities.

## *Coverage of the Arts*

Second Place, Division 2

### **Gay City News**

Brooklyn

**Steve Erickson, Gary Kramer,**

**David Kennerley, Nicholas**

**Boston and Heather Cassell**

Well-written features on subjects tied closely to the audience of the publication

## *Coverage of the Arts*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Colonie Spotlight**

Delmar

**Aedan Perry, Amaris Ford and**

**Michael Hallisey**

The Spot 518 features quick hits on a variety of arts topics, including both news and features.

## *Coverage of the Environment*

First Place

### **Dan's Papers**

Brooklyn

**Timothy Bolger, Michael**

**Malaszczyk and Alec Rich**

Well-researched, in-depth investigative reporting on a variety of environmental issues that directly affect readers.

## *Coverage of the Environment*

Second Place

### **The Brooklyn Paper**

Brooklyn

**Kirstyn Brendlen, Isabel Song**

**Beer and Oscar Fock**

Eye-catching design and good headline writing. Excellent, in-depth stories on the impacts of climate change and environmental concerns.

## *Coverage of the Environment*

Third Place

### **New York Amsterdam**

### **News**

New York

**Ariama C. Long and Roxanne**

**L. Scott**

Clear, concise writing on local environmental issues. I especially liked the in-depth interviews with residents on how climate change is affecting the day-to-day lives of them and their children.



# Sports Writer of the Year, 2024

There were 16 entries in this category



## First Place

**Mike Macadam**

**THE DAILY GAZETTE**

A *Daily Gazette* staffer since 1987, Mike MacAdam has covered every type of sports story over the years. His career includes stints as a beat writer for Siena basketball, Union men's hockey and thoroughbred horse racing. He's also covered various minor-league professional sports teams (the Albany Patroons and Albany Firebirds among several). For the past 20 years, he's been the sports department's featured columnist. Most recently he's expanded his focus to include high school athletics.



The judges said: "The most readable of the entrants this year and had a wide range of subjects. Particularly liked the Pickleball "participatory journalism" angle. George Plimpton would be proud."



## Second Place

**Mark Singelais**

**TIMES UNION**

Since 1996, Mark Singelais has worked at the *Times Union*. Singelais' top responsibilities are covering the University at Albany football and Siena College basketball programs. He also provides coverage on a number of other topics, including professional baseball, lacrosse and horseracing.



The judges said: "Solid writing. Good ledes and readable stories. Easy to make it through to the end of your stories."



## Third Place

**Tom Allegra**

**THE SMITHTOWN NEWS**

Tom Allegra is a reporter, editor and page-design specialist for the North Shore News Group. He has served multiple roles on the editorial desk, starting as sports editor from 1998 to 2004, during which time he twice captured NYPA first-place honors for "Sports Writer of the Year"– and currently as a desk editor and general-assignment reporter following his return to the industry this year after a 10-year hiatus. Allegra has covered a vast array of sports in his career . Allegra still offers straight forward game coverage but has become more engrossed in the human-interest side of sports, addressing issues ranging from the paralympic training of mentally and physically challenged athletes to raising awareness about the mental health crisis and its impact on the every day athlete. In so doing, Allegra has helped build an even stronger connection between the news and sports sections of *The (Northport) Observer* and *The Smithtown News*



The judges said: "Very good writing. Really enjoyed how you attacked the Rolling Thunder story. Never easy to be able to cover an event like that. Kudos for getting statements from the runners to make it much more than a listing of places and times."

# Excellence Awards

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

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

The thoroughness of reporting is what helps this entry stand out among a large group of quality entries. Great use of data and a focus on providing readers with important information consistently evident in the coverage. Job well done!

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

Second Place

### **New Pine Plains Herald**

Pine Plains

#### **Mary Jenkins**

Could have nearly flipped a coin on first and second place. Thoroughness evident in the articles. Solid entry!

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

Third Place

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Phyllis Eckhaus and Lincoln Anderson**

Newspaper is offering thorough coverage on some key health issues in the area. Great overall coverage.

## *Headline Writing*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

These headlines are catchy without being gimmicky. They were also clear, easy to read (didn't trip over any of them) and also easy to understand. They remain clever enough to draw the reader in while being respectful to the content. Nice work!

## *Headline Writing*

Second Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Gregory Dayton**

These are all memorable headlines that draw the reader in while clearly (and cleverly) setting up the story.

## *Headline Writing*

Third Place

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

#### **Robert Pozarycki**

Your publication does a nice job with title heads. I particularly liked "Unraveling." Draws the reader in with clear and concise heads.

## *Coverage of Crime/Police/Courts*

First Place, Division 1

### **New York Amsterdam**

#### **News**

New York

#### **Tandy Lau**

Thorough analysis of efforts to replace Rikers Island with a "jailscaper" in Chinatown. Solitary-confinement story also well-done.

## *Coverage of Crime/Police/Courts*

Second Place, Division 1

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

#### **TE McMorrow, Brendan**

#### **O'Reilly, Christopher Walsh and Michael Wright**

Writing is solid, some of the reporting is routine, but I appreciate that some reporting required legwork.

## *Coverage of Crime/Police/Courts*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Fire Island and Great**

### **South Bay News**

West Hempstead

#### **Shoshanna McCollum**

Good package.

## *Coverage of Crime/Police/Courts*

First Place, Division 2

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Emilie Munson**

I judged many excellent stories in this category, far more than I could give awards to, but the investigative report on the challenges of destroying illicit drugs stood out above all of them. Good lede. Multi-sourced. Resulted in legislation being introduced. Kudos to the newspaper for giving the reporter the time to produce this report.

## *Coverage of Crime/Police/Courts*

Second Place, Division 2

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

#### **Dean Moses**

The on-the-scene reporting of transit crime was outstanding. The stories were well-written, interesting to read, and showed good enterprise. Obviously, this paper serves an area where, unfortunately, crime stories may be easier to find, but the reporting is anything but routine.

## *Coverage of Crime/Police/Courts*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Long Island Press**

Flushing

#### **Timothy Bolger and Michael**

#### **Malaszczyk**

This was the second-to-last package that I judged, and it caused me to change my mind on a third-place recipient. The stories are about important subjects, they are well-written, and you seek out additional sources for comments, such as the original lead investigator in the "serial killer" story and the professor in the "leaked crime scene photo" story.

## *Coverage of Elections/Politics*

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Steve Hughes**

These stories, published in a little over 20 days total, exhibit what appears to be the self-destruction of a public official. I am curious to know whether he survived the scandal to win another term.

## *Coverage of Elections/Politics*

Second Place

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Lincoln Anderson and Roberta Schine**

This set of excellent stories shows tremendous amounts of work and a great depth of knowledge of the issues and personalities. The interview with Mayor Eric Adams was especially good reading, with context and depth.

## *Coverage of Elections/Politics*

Third Place

### **Adirondack Daily**

### **Enterprise**

Saranac Lake

#### **Aaron Marbone**

Great reporting on a local lawmaker who achieved a very high national profile and appointment in the new administration. And the story on the close election, with a new clerk reluctant to release results, was delightful.

## *Historical, Anniversary, or Progress Editions*

First Place

### **Queens Chronicle**

Glendale

Good variety of topics showcasing progress in a specific location. Technical but easy to comprehend.

## *Historical, Anniversary, or Progress Editions*

Second Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

A nice look back at the newspaper industry and how it's changed and progressed. Congrats on 100 years.

## *Historical, Anniversary, or Progress Editions*

Third Place

### **New Pine Plains Herald**

Pine Plains

Strong stories, well written and edited. As a special edition it could have had more of a theme to tie these stories together.

## *Coverage of Religion*

First Place

### **Queens Chronicle**

Glendale

The coverage of the different denominations/relations and the eye-catching photos set this apart.

## *Coverage of Religion*

Second Place

### **The Batavian**

Batavia

#### **Joanne Beck and Howard**

#### **Owens**

The coverage was enlightening, especially for controversial topics. Great statement photos along with the coverage.

## *Coverage of Religion*

Third Place

### **Our Town East Side**

Chester

#### **Keith J. Kelly**

Informative pieces on all counts - great job!



# Photographer of the Year, 2024

*There were 10 entries in this category*



## First Place

**Peggy Gallery**

### THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER

Peggy Gallery has been a professional photographer since 2012 and a photographer with *The Smithtown News* and *Observer* since 2016. She began taking photos as event planner, eventually taking photos at her children's sporting events before becoming a freelance photographer. In her five years at the North Shore News Group, Gallery developed a passion for taking photographs that showcase the action and context of each event she attends. She has developed a following among the readers of the newspapers, and is a key asset to both *The Smithtown News* and *The Observer*.

*The judges said: "This portfolio is full of faces and emotion on clean backgrounds. The essence of competition and relationship is clearly communicated. The photographer spends most of their time as a sports photojournalist, documenting the action on the field. There are multiple images of peak action, however, they don't stop there. Some of the most storytelling images happen after the game. Patience and observation are wonderful traits that carry this portfolio."*



## Second 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 a wide assortment of people, places, and things: celebrities and sunsets, horse shows and house tours, politicians and parades, eclipses and breaching

whales. Always looking for a memorable image, Durell is never without a camera.

*The judges said: "This photographer understands their community and shows wisdom in how to document the daily life of the residents. Clearly, the landscape of this region is a large part of the community identity and this photographer capitalizes on the human interaction with the environment. This is a pretty lovely canvas to photograph against. The photography is sometimes quite quiet and thoughtful."*



## Third Place

**Anthony Lifrieri**

### THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

Anthony Lifrieri has covered sports on the North Shore of Long Island since the summer of 2011. After taking on a full-time

role as sports reporter and editor of the North Shore News Group in the fall of 2011, Lifrieri established himself as one of the area's most respected and popular media personalities. In his two decades managing the sports sections of *The Smithtown News* and *The Observer*, Lifrieri has devoted himself to outstanding sports coverage in his hometown and beyond, covering all athletic teams from seven different high schools.

Lifrieri is also focused on honing his craft by learning all aspects of production,

including reporting, writing, photography, and layout. He also helped pioneer the use of social media at the hyperlocal level, growing a passionate following in the community.

*The judges said: "This photographer has fun and captures the personality of the subjects in the photos. There is laughter and joy and drama. There's a determined attentiveness by this photographer to capture honest emotion from the people in front of the camera. The difficulty level in this approach is high, making for some powerful singular images."*





# Excellence Awards

## *Sports Feature*

First Place, Divison 1

### **Southampton Press - Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

**Desirée Keegan**

Probably has the best-written lede in the category. That helps the reader get into the story, something most of the other entries did not do.

## *Sports Feature*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Southampton Press - Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

**Desirée Keegan**

Solid story about an NFL draft pick.

## *Sports Feature*

Third Place, Divison 1

### **Mendon-Honeoye Falls- Lima Sentinel**

Mendon

**Donna MacKenzie**

Well written. Good incorporation of side stories which provide depth to the subject. I like the fact that you were able to track down some of the former players.

## *Sports Feature*

First Place, Division 2

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

**Joey Asher**

A fun look at a unique opportunity. Enjoyable read!

## *Sports Feature*

Second Place, Divison 2

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

**Desirée Keegan**

Felt as though we were there on the boat.

## *Sports Feature*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Port Washington News**

Mineola

**Michael J. Lewis**

Great insight, through younger eyes.

## *Sports Feature*

First Place, Division 3

### **Daily Gazette**

Schenectady

**Mike Macadam**

Very well done. Heartfelt. Held the reader's interest throughout. Good detail, with personal touches.

## *Sports Feature*

Second Place Division 3

### **Times Union**

Albany

**Michael Kelly**

Set the scene well. Draws the reader in. Makes me wish I knew how each twin did in the matchup!

## *Sports Feature*

Third Place, Divison 3

### **The Rye Record**

Rye

**Jackie Frederick-Berner**

Great description of the operation, those who are benefitting, and the man behind it all.

## *Solutions*

### *Journalism Project*

First Place

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

**Dean Moses**

The impact of this work is dramatic and undeniable. I like to see newspapers take credit for their relevance and importance to the community. The images, though news, are so shocking as to give an editorial tone to the story. It shocked the readers and government into action.

## *Solutions*

### *Journalism Project*

Second Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

**The multiple prongs of this coverage show what solutions-based journalism can accomplish.**

### *Solutions Journalism*

### *Project*

Third Place

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

**Brian PJ Cronin**

**The visual component of this coverage is the best part. These layouts with the use of color, infographics, and dramatic photographs make the information really easy to absorb.**

## *Sports Coverage*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

These editions submitted were spectacular in coverage. The action and celebration photos of the Little League baseball and softball were just beautiful. Then the lifeguard series plus the boating feature were good. I was not expecting to see an article on Mrs. Palin either. And throw in a little soccer feature. Fantastic coverage all around. You earned my No. 1 vote.

## *Sports Coverage*

Second Place

### **Southampton Press-**

### **Eastern Edition**

Southampton

Whether eastern or western editions, the photos are superb and the wide range of coverage of your local NFL player, the battle of the hoop stars, plus track and field, 5k running, golf, fishing, surfing, pickle ball and a lifeguard article. Nice range of coverage and write-ups.

## *Sports Coverage*

Second Place

### **Southampton Press -**

### **Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

Whether eastern or western editions, the photos are superb and the wide range of coverage of your local NFL player, the battle of the hoop stars, plus track and field, 5k running, golf, fishing, surfing, pickle ball and a lifeguard article. Nice range of coverage and write-ups.

## *Sports Coverage*

Third Place

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

Great write-ups on Cindy Cobb and Ty Cobb and the lost state title banner, just fantastic read. Tennis, lacrosse, field hockey, hoops, wrestling, soccer and the hall of famers. Great job.

## *Spot News Coverage*

First Place, Division 1

### **Red Hook Daily Catch**

Red Hook

**Emily Sachar**

Coverage from start to finish was informative and well-written. The author did a great job with introducing the reader to the victim.

## *Spot News Coverage*

Second Place, Division 1

### **East Aurora Advertiser & Elma Review**

East Aurora

**Shelly Ferullo**

The historical aspect in relation to the current article was an interesting concept - history does repeat itself. Nice job!

## *Spot News Coverage*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Adirondack Explorer**

Saranac Lake

Cool coverage and all-encompassing perspective, from the girls scouts to the brewery!

## *Spot News Coverage*

First Place, Division 2

### **The Village Times**

### **Herald**

Setauket

**Lynn Hallarman**

Wow! What a phenomenal piece with huge impact to the community. Great writing, in-depth reporting and photography.

## *Spot News Coverage*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Village Times**

### **Herald**

Setauket

**Toni-Elena Gallo**

Great reporting and photos showing storm damage, officials and impact to local wildlife. I really liked the way you broke down and explained each area of impact. It was a well-written report that kept my interest throughout.

## *Spot News Coverage*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

**Michael Wright**

This is a very interesting story that had a "who done it" feel to it that pulled me in and kept me reading. I kept wondering if the dock owner really called authorities first or just started kicking, hoping no one was around. Great reporting on an interesting story!



# Best Front Page, 2024

There were 41 entries in this category

First Place

SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN EDITION

The judges said: "Best of the best. Sensational Feb. 1 entry. Great use of cutouts Dec. 5."

Second Place

Amaris Ford, Michael Hallisey, Dave Abbott

THE DELMAR SPOTLIGHT

The judges said: "Sensational pages! You take your unusual size format and run with it. A very nice look."

Third Place

SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION

The judges said: "A very nice look. Great use of photos. Especially like Aug 15 issue. Tough category."





# Excellence Awards

## *Spot News Coverage*

First Place, Division 3

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

#### **Dean Moses, Barbara Russo-**

#### **Lennon and Robert Pozarycki**

Phenomenal in-depth coverage, well-written articles and gripping photos. I was hanging on every word.

## *Spot News Coverage*

Second Place, Division 3

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

#### **Dean Moses**

This was an amazing story, and I was blown away by the coverage. It was well written and could have been a first-place contender in my opinion. This writer has a unique style, and I love it.

## *Spot News Coverage*

Third Place, Division 3

### **North Country This**

#### **Week**

Potsdam

#### **Jimmy Lawton, Adam Atkinson and Paul Mitchell**

The storm had an enormous impact on a community, and it was covered very well. Critical information was provided throughout with details of what happened to plan for recovery.

## *News Story*

First Place, Division 1

### **The News-Review**

Mattituck

#### **Chris Francescani**

I appreciate how well this piece puts a local face on a topic that gets discussed nationally often with just statistics. Good story structure that starts with a very strong lead. Great choice of quotes to support the story.

## *News Story*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Shelter Island Reporter**

Mattituck

#### **Julie Lane**

A well-written report that explains in simple terms why local decision makers oppose new federal guidelines.

## *News Story*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Shawangunk Journal**

Ellenville

#### **Chris Rowley and John**

#### **D'Amico**

A very interesting read and as a news story, this is exactly how media can dispel rumors that otherwise would harm the community or residents.

## *News Story*

First Place, Division 2

### **South Shore Press**

Shirley

#### **Robert Chartuk**

Good coverage of a complicated local story of importance to many residents. Well written; good background work.

## *News Story*

Second Place, Division 2

### **Westmore News**

Port Chester

#### **Sarah Wolpoff**

Well written story that documents a local issue. Very good human interest element.

## *News Story*

Third Place, Division 2

### **East Aurora Advertiser**

#### **& Elma Review**

East Aurora

#### **Shelly Ferullo**

Good investigative news story that required filing a FOI request. Complicated facts, but story is easy to read.

## *News Story*

First Place, Division 3

### **Bay News & Brooklyn**

#### **Graphic**

Brooklyn

#### **Ximena Del Cerro**

There was no shortage of quality entries in this category, making it a difficult one to judge. But this story stood out just above the rest. The reporter gives readers a masterfully framed snapshot of the Paucar family and the daily struggles they're facing. Weaving in stats and data as the story zooms in and out elevates it to the next level, as does the seamless writing style with which it's done. Any reader will come away having a better understanding of their community after reading it, and of some of the issues -- both obvious and less so -- facing immigrants like the Paucars.

## *News Story*

Second Place, Division 3

### **The Brooklyn Paper**

Brooklyn

#### **Kirstyn Brendlen**

The reporter clearly has a special knack for turning what could be dense, tangled subject matter into something that reads and flows easily. The reporter does a fantastic job of leading the reader from point to point and clearly outlining the

issues in play and the major players.

Additionally, excellent use of many sources to paint a full picture, but without cluttering it. Very hard balancing act that is so much more difficult than it looks, and that's pulled off very well -- to the reader's benefit.

## *News Story*

Third Place, Division 3

### **Times Ledger**

Flushing

#### **Iryna Shkurhan**

Excellent job in talking with so many people who work at victimized stores. The writing flows easily and invites the reader to listen and to think about the issues involved. The strikingly honest stories from the store owners and employees are presented in a matter-of-fact way that allows readers to ultimately draw their own conclusions. Their stories and theories are the driving force behind the piece, with context peppered in as appropriate. Overall, it adds up to a very impactful piece that effectively highlights a larger shoplifting trend at a hyperlocal and personal level. Really great work and valuable journalism for your readers.

## *News Story*

First Place, Division 4

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Lana Bellamy**

Well-reported watchdog journalism scrutinizing a bedrock facet of American government. Straight-forward, fair and strikes a balance of thoroughness and readability.

## *News Story*

Second Place, Division 4

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Maria M. Silva**

Well-written story about the intersection of human experience with government. Captures the emotional content without exploiting or leveraging it and walks through all aspects of the conflict.

## *News Story*

Third Place, Division 4

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

#### **Dean Moses**

Nice job portraying multiple aspects of homelessness issues and policy. Shows the human side realistically, without exploiting emotions.

## *Feature Story*

First Place, Division 1

### **RiverheadLOCAL**

Riverhead

#### **Denise Civiletti**

Nice job drawing readers into history and a place likely ignored or forgotten.

## *Feature Story*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Red Hook Daily Catch**

Red Hook

#### **Emily Sachar**

Beautiful story of a life cut too short. This read as a true life story rather than an obituary. Impressive sourcing and gathering of details.

## *Feature Story*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Shelter Island Reporter**

Mattituck

#### **Ambrose Clancy**

This veteran's story really took you there. I've read many Veterans Day type stories, but this one drew me in more than others.

## *Feature Story*

First Place, Division 2

### **Westmore News**

Port Chester

#### **Sarah Wolpoff**

Talk about painting a picture: "It was dusk, and as if challenging one to a race, she'd intensely lock her moon-like, dark eyes with anyone who would look before zipping through the rows of her family garden. Passing the patty pans, the prolific butternut squash, she headed straight toward tomato ally, where inevitably, and strategically, she plopped—right in front of her favorite snack." This piece does the work of immediately taking its reader where the writer wants and keeps them there with incredible detail. Great job showcasing a family intent on caring for their children in an old fashioned, yet recognizably capable way.

## *Feature Story*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Palladium Times**

Oswego

#### **Lauren Royce**

Fantastic and historic look at a difficult time for a lot of people. The writer's clear organization keeps readers on track and brings them up today for the anniversary event as well. Great job.



# Richard L. Stein Overall Design Excellence



## First Place

Sara Mannino Kent and Kerri Cunningham

**Southampton Press-  
Eastern Edition**

*The judges said: "Engaging front page with varied use of typography and imagery that draws the reader in. Well designed inside pages that are chock full of content. Advertising is clearly healthy but does not overwhelm the pages. Photography helps tell the stories."*



## Second Place

Pierce Strudler

**The Highlands Current**

*The judges said: "Your front page is full of stories that are sure to catch any reader's eye. The inside pages are well laid out with a diversity of features that feel cohesive while remaining distinctive. The advertising is well organized."*



## Third Place

Sara Mannino Kent and Kerri Cunningham

**The Sag Harbor Express**

*The judges said: "Nice organization on the cover with a dominant image. Nice variety of fonts and feature designs to draw the reader in and keep them interested. The Residence section is engaging."*

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## Editor's Note

*NYPA's Better Newspaper Contest is very important to New York's Newspapers. Special thanks to all – to the newspapers for sharing your best work; to the Missouri Press Association for taking the time to carefully and thoughtfully judge our entries; to Judy Patrick for layout and design of the contest newspaper; to The Berkshire Eagle from printing and delivering the newspaper; to Jill Van Dusen for coordinating the contest, supervising the judging, creating the plaques and certificates, then sorting them for the awards ceremonies, and for preparing the awards ceremony scripts; to Rick Fensterer for preparing the slide shows for each of the awards ceremonies; to the board members who helped present the awards.*

*Congratulations to all,  
Michelle*

# Excellence Awards

## *Feature Story*

Third Place, Division 2

### **City & State**

New York

#### **Sahalie Donaldson**

An interesting look at Eric Adams. The writer put forth incredible effort to track down the close sources necessary to showcase his faith. Fabulous work.

## *Feature Story*

First Place, Division 3

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Brian PJ Cronin**

Absolutely delightful. A unique topic with superior storytelling and photography. Nice work!

## *Feature Story*

Second Place, Division 3

### **Port Washington News**

Mineola

#### **Cameryn Oakes**

Well-written and researched with quality interview and primary sources. Great job!

## *Feature Story*

Third Place, Division 3

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

#### **Desirée Keegan**

Very thoroughly reported with quality interviews. It's lighthearted but impactful.

## *Feature Story*

First Place, Division 4

### **Long Beach Herald**

Garden City

#### **Angelina Zingariello**

Good combination of personal struggle and outcome with unconventional therapy. Well written and edited, a compelling read.

## *Feature Story*

Second Place, Division 4

### **East Hampton Star, The**

East Hampton

#### **Carissa Katz**

A good inside tribute to the life of a journalist, well written. Enjoyed reading it.

## *Feature Story*

Third Place, Division 4

### **The Brooklyn Paper**

Brooklyn

#### **Adam Daly**

Well written look at an age group often overlooked and their reasons for keeping active and performing.

## *Feature Story*

First Place, Division 5

### **Lake Champlain Weekly**

Plattsburgh

#### **Benjamin Pomerance**

“The Truth That Heals” was captivating. The writer’s dedication to the story was evident as he exposed his subject’s vulnerabilities completely to the reader. I feel as though I know something I shouldn’t, like a dirty secret, which is truly a testament to the writer’s prose as much as his character. To get a story like that requires trust within a reporter who shows grace and respect. I felt all of that in the article. The story of Judy Collins’ struggles with family, suicide and addiction is one that should be heard, and it could have stood on its own. However, her triumph over despair and dedication to helping those who also struggle is a fantastic progression leading to her current career. The story is not bogged down by unnecessary quotes or superfluous language. Job well done.

## *Feature Story*

Second Place, Division 5

### **The Rye Record**

Rye

#### **Jackie Frederick-Berner**

Sweet Success: Rye Town Park’s Russ Gold and His Beekeeping Adventure is a unique story with engaging and punny copy and great quotes that added to copy.

## *Feature Story*

Third Place, Division 5

### **The Photo News**

Chester

#### **Lisa Reider**

Well researched, well written and all around kept me engaged.

## *Feature Story*

First Place, Division 6

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Maria M. Silva**

The combination of storytelling, subject matter and the characters used in the story created an engaging and entertaining feature.

## *Feature Story*

Second Place, Division 6

### **Dan’s Papers**

Brooklyn

#### **Oliver Peterson**

The subject matter was exceptionally interesting and dove into a local landmark telling stories that even longtime residents may not have been familiar with.

## *Feature Story*

Third Place, Division 6

### **Queens Courier**

Flushing

#### **Sabir Hasko**

I thought the story provided a compelling and localized view of a conflict affecting individuals worldwide without overly politicizing the issue.

## *Best News*

### *or Feature Series*

First Place, Division 1

### **The Reporter**

Delhi

#### **Alyshia Korba**

Now, this is what a news series should be about. Taking a subject many people, including regular readers, would instead not be faced with and not only present the truth but do it in a way that shows the full range of humanity. This is outstanding work. If this indicates her overall work, I hope she stays in journalism. We need more people who are willing to do work like this series.

## *Best News*

### *or Feature Series*

Second Place, Division 1

### **The East Hampton Star**

East Hampton

#### **Christopher Gangemi**

This was a tough call to put in second place because this is an excellent series of stories, showing how to take messy local political issues and distill them in a way that makes them easy for the readers to understand. It’s admirable that the writer was able to not go down the rabbit holes local political officials threw his way and maintain focus on the main story - great work.

## *Best News*

### *or Feature Series*

Third Place, Division 1

### **New York Amsterdam**

### **News**

New York

#### **Tandy Lau**

Outstanding job keeping any kind of personal bias out of the writing of the piece. When covering injustices, it’s hard for all of us not to put unconscious bias into pieces in word choices or paragraph layout. This conveyed the message and the passion in true journalistic fashion. Outstanding work.

## *Best News*

### *or Feature Series*

First Place, Division 2

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Phillip Pantuso**

Very impressive reporting on this case, with the reporter carefully working ahead of any criminal filing or official action. Fair, but acknowledges the elephant in the room as far as the former husband.

## *Best News*

### *or Feature Series*

Second Place, Division 2

### **Warwick Advertiser**

Chester

#### **Becca Tucker**

Well-reported series of stories that kept readers in mind both with the ideas for the story and the execution. This answers residents’ questions in an engaging way with the right amount of detail.

## *Best News*

### *or Feature Series*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

#### **David Ambro and Tom Allegra**

Comprehensive coverage of a local disaster with far-reaching consequences. A great example of community news upon which readers can rely.

## *Best Obituaries*

First Place

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

#### **David Ambro**

Excellent writing that presented clear pictures of lives well-lived. I particularly enjoyed reading Jane Goldblatt’s story. I would’ve liked to have known her. Really good job on writing, the design of the pages and the selection of photos used.

## *Best Obituaries*

Second Place

### **Southampton Press-**

### **Eastern Edition**

Southampton

Heartfelt, beautiful writing on the feature tribute stories. Good design on the obit page.



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# Excellence Awards

## *Best Obituaries*

Third Place

### **Port Washington News**

Mineola

#### **Cameryn Oakes and Hannah Devlin**

It's so hard to write about the death of a young person, but Hannah Devlin did a wonderful job commemorating 17-year-old Connor Kasin's life. Cameryn Oakes' tribute story on Andrew Malekoff was excellent also. I loved all the quotes from his son Darren.

## *Editorials*

First Place, Division 1

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Lincoln Anderson**

This is what an editorial is. Takes a stand and explains why it takes the stand

## *Editorials*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Cortland Standard**

Cortland

#### **Todd R. McAdam**

Well written. Addresses the problems, talks about the direction that needs to be taken.

## *Editorials*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Westmore News**

Port Chester

#### **Jananne Abel**

Great writing.

## *Editorials*

First Place, Division 2

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

#### **David Ambro**

Great editorials about local issues impacting local people. The newspaper takes a stand in each editorial that is commonsense and well articulated.

## *Editorials*

Second Place, Division 2

### **amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

#### **Robert Pozarycki**

Very good points on a real-life problem facing communities and those who protect them. Commonsense approaches and recommendations for solutions. Exactly what an editorial should be — articulate the problem and suggest a course of action.

## *Editorials*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Times Union**

Albany

These are what editorials should be. Pick out a problem and talk about solutions.

## *Best Column*

First Place, Division 1

### **Shelter Island Reporter**

Mattituck

#### **Charity Robey**

Writing is elegant, and includes humor, personality and humility. All three columns solid and entertaining, which is one of the reasons for writing and/or reading a column. Many of the entries tended strongly toward newsy feature stories rather than columns. Several were excellent stories, fun to read, but did not address an issue of local interest. This columnist knows how to write a lede to attract readers. Newspapers have stiff competition for people's time; their staffs even compete with each other for the readers' time. If you can't write a great lede, you won't be read. Rules for Category 36 include "Issue treatment, local appeal, originality, writing quality and issue oriented. This entry fills the bill.

## *Best Column*

Second Place, Division 1

### **City & State**

New York

#### **Tom Allon**

Good, thorough analysis pieces about local politics and politicians. Fact-filled, relevant commentary.

## *Best Column*

Third Place, Division 1

### **East Aurora Advertiser**

#### **& Elma Review**

East Aurora

#### **Rick Ohler**

Good, fun columns about living in a place. Personal observations well said. Writing is warm, whimsical easy reading.

## *Best Column*

First Place, Division 2

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Michael Turton**

This category presented the usual problem -- all of the columns are good. This writer rose to the top on the consistent quality of writing in all three columns. Leds (leads) are critically important for columns. The 1st, 2nd and Third Place winners in this category do a great job with the leds. This writer's columns are full of warmth and humanity. They are personal, relatable and friendly. Writing is smooth, easy reading.

All that said, virtually all of the entries are very good. Six excellent entries made choosing 1, 2 and 3 aggravating. When so many are so good, and only one can be tops, judging isn't fun any more. Well done to all who entered.

## *Best Column*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

#### **Tracy Grathwohl**

Good writing! Fun reading. Witty and charming.

## *Best Column*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Joey Asher**

Fine, crisp writing; excellent ledes. Can't stop reading after the first graph on all three. Entertaining personal observations.

## *Best Column*

First Place, Division 3

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Chris Churchill**

For someone who apparently covers the violence and death beat, he writes with compassion and empathy. All three of the top entries exhibit similar assets. All three also meet the rules of the category: Issue related, local appeal, originality and writing quality. Some of the other entries were weak regarding the category rules; others tended toward being feature stories. Readers of this newspaper can't go wrong with these columnists. All are top-notch. Two things brought him to the top: Fine use of great quotations from the subjects, and concise, active sentences. He gets to periods faster than the others. (A snarky comment I can't help using: When you want to put in a comma, pause. We all have an unlimited supply of periods. Use more of them. I apologize.) It was a pleasure reading all the columns from these writers.

## *Best Column*

Second Place, Division 3

### **Times Union**

Casey Seiler

#### **Albany**

Solid writing. Good, relevant issues in the community addressed with logic. Column about lottery ticket littering had an amusing wistful feel.

## *Best Column*

Third Place, Division 3

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Steve Barnes**

These are wonderful columns, well

written. Good reading. The column about writing obits is thoughtful, personal with just the right hint of melancholy. The marijuana and cooking columns are very personal looks at current social issues. These top three entries are a judge's bane. All are top-notch.

## *Editorial Cartoon*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

#### **Peter Waldner**

The impact and detail of this cartoon set this entry apart from the rest. Having Trump's silhouette pulling the plug brought a lot of impact to this work. This was a solid submission.

## *Editorial Cartoon*

Second Place

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

#### **Peter Waldner**

Sometimes, less is more. Artist chose the perfect figures to illustrate the message. This entry just jumps off the newsprint.

## *Editorial Cartoon*

Third Place

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Clay Jones**

Nice touch adding a cartoon to depict what folks may feel like with survey questions being hurled at them. You can put yourself in her shoes and I'm sure your readers did. Job well done.

## *Best Freedom of Information Award*

First Place

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

#### **David Ambro**

Excellent choice to print the redacted letters and to involve the reader in the investigative process. The follow through was key.

## *Best Freedom of Information Award*

Second Place

### **RiverheadLOCAL**

Riverhead

#### **Alek Lewis and Denise Civiletti**

The headline of the opinion piece is perfect, and this is a masterful handling of those delicate times when a newspaper becomes part of the story. It makes the point without shifting focus from the subject.



# A-Mark Foundation Investigative Reporting Award

*There were 50 entries in this category*

Investigative reporters are trained to follow the money, but it takes resources to follow the money. That's why the New York Press Association and the A-Mark Foundation created a new \$15,000 cash prize for reporters and their newsrooms for excellence in investigative reporting.

A-Mark Foundation is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in 1997. The A-Mark Foundation makes focused grants to organizations that offer awards to promote and encourage journalism and investigative reporting.

## First Place

### TIMES UNION, ALBANY

**Emilie Munson, Chris Hippensteel, Brendan Lyons, Taylor Johnston, Alexandra Harris**

\$5,000 for the journalist(s) and \$2,500 to the Times Union

### POLICE CAR CRASHES

### AND PURSUITS IN NEW YORK

*The judges said: "In a category with 50 entries, this one clearly stood out from the rest. This series had it all: It thoroughly identified the problem through extensive research, detailed how others are successfully dealing with it, reported the effects the problem has caused in several people's lives, and prompted action from state legislators to address it. Great job by the entire team at the Times Union."*



## Second Place

### THE EXAMINER, MT. KISCO

**Adam Stone**

Second place: \$3,000 for Adam Stone and \$1,500 to The Examiner

### CORPORATE CARE SERIES

*The judges said: "In a word: Wow. Adam Stone's one-man crusade, exposing the sometimes nefarious inner workings of the United Health Care Group and its subsidiaries, was as impressive as thorough. The amount of research, detail and insider interviews reflected a Herculean effort by Stone. Then in a morbid piece of Journalism Karma, Stone's series wrapped up (this year at least) with a made-for-tv conclusion. Great work Adam."*

## Third Place

### PARK SLOPE COURIER, BROOKLYN

**Anna Bradley-Smith**

\$2,000 for Anna Bradley-Smith and \$1,000 to the Park Slope Courier

### COURT ALLOWS PARTITION SALE

*The judges said: "Arguably the toughest decision to make was choosing the third place winner, of which there were several worthwhile candidates. This story though stood out due to its unique nature and how well Anna Bradley-Smith wrote the piece. Great job of detailing the newest version of what seems like corporate/white collar crime."*



# Excellence Awards

## *Best Freedom of Information Award*

Third Place

### **Daily Gazette**

Schenectady

#### **Mark Mahoney**

I appreciate the commitment to hold the district's feet to the fire repeatedly, but I wish I had seen more news coverage to bolster this entry in this particular category.

## *Best Distinguished Coverage of Diversity*

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Akum Norder**

Nice package. The stories were compelling, and the wrap-up reader response piece was a fitting bow. What put this entry in first place was the involvement of more than one person and type of content.

## *Best Distinguished Coverage of Diversity*

Second Place

### **Adirondack Explorer**

Saranac Lake

#### **David Escobar**

Straightforward reporting. Accessible writing. And the writer can take pictures to go with his stories. Well done all the way around!

## *Best Distinguished Coverage of Diversity*

Third Place

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Bonnie Rosenstock**

As an editor, I know how nice it is to have a reporter OWN a beat, as this reporter does.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

First Place, Division 1

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

#### **Dana Shaw and Kyril Bromley**

"Fire Dancer" showcases the photographers' ability to eloquently compose a shot, centering the subject and using their movements to lead the viewer through the photo. The colors feel natural and there is a clear depth of field that is appealing to the eye. I only wish the arm had been cropped out

### *Feature Photo(s)*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Westmore News**

Port Chester

#### **Sarah Wolpoff**

This photo is incredible, especially when considering the less-than-ideal lighting. The colors and composition are textbook and the subject is unique.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Shelter Island Reporter**

Mattituck

#### **Adam Bundy**

OMG. "Moonlight Sonata" – perfect! A gift for those who didn't get to see it live.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

First Place, Division 2

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Ross Corsair**

A nice set of photos and design from an everyday type of assignment. Captures the event nicely.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

Second Place, Division 2

### **Press-Republican**

Plattsburgh

#### **Ben Rowe**

Good storytelling photos that show what it was like to watch the eclipse.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Brooklyn Paper**

Brooklyn

#### **Paul Frangipane**

Great portrait and photos that show her, what she does and what she makes.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

First Place, Division 3

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Lori Van Buren**

A really nice, fun photo. The zookeepers personality really shows through the photo.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

Second Place, Division 3

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Lori Van Buren**

Nice fun snow feature. You can tell the kids are having a blast.

### *Feature Photo(s)*

Third Place, Division 3

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Will Waldron**

Just a nice environmental feature photo.

### *Sports Action Photo(s)*

First Place, Division 1

### **Southampton Press -**

### **Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

#### **Ron Esposito**

Timing, photo quality, framing — all perfect. This is the shot you dream of getting the once in a blue moon such a play occurs. Well done!

### *Sports Action Photo(s)*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Raider/Panther**

### **Reporter, The**

Hawthorne

#### **Todd Sliss**

Excellent timing and framing. Love how you included the "Edgemont" on the hurdle. Looks like it should be in a brochure!

### *Sports Action Photo(s)*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Livingston County News**

Batavia

#### **Ben Beagle**

Wow! The uniqueness of this photo is fun. Great timing on the capture and framing of the action. Incredible shot!

### *Sports Action Photo(s)*

First Place, Division 2

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

#### **Ron Esposito**

The main photo alone in this spread is worthy of the top placement. Excellent angle, which had to take some commitment to get, and timing with the guy jumping through the middle of the frame. Everywhere I look, there's new action to find. I also hope your camera didn't get too sandy!

### *Sports Action Photo(s)*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

#### **Todd Falasco**

The crispness of the dive in this photo is spectacular, especially combined with the out-of-focus defender in the background. Even with some of the helmet lost, it's a wonderful photo.

### *Sports Action Photo(s)*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Smithtown News**

Smithtown

#### **Peggy Gallery**

There were many strong candidates for third in this category. Ultimately, the combination of action with the flip and the emotion of the coach in the background was what won out. Well-timed and well-focused. Exciting shot!

### *Sports Feature Photo(s)*

First Place, Division 1

## **The Times of Smithtown Township**

Setauket

#### **Steven Zaitz**

The lead photo is full of peak emotion. The player leaping makes the image come alive, creating a focal point that helps organize the image. The flying ball glove is a bonus. The other two photos in the package are also full of emotion with clean backgrounds.

### *Sports Feature Photo(s)*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Rockville Centre Herald**

Garden City

#### **Brian Ballweg**

This photo shows excellent framing of the lacrosse winners in this overtime state championship moment. Their faces run the spectrum of elation, stopping the viewer -- the joy here is studying their faces, bodies contained in the goal.

### *Sports Feature Photo(s)*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Raider/Panther**

### **Reporter, The**

Hawthorne

#### **Todd Sliss**

The celebratory faces of the players are wonderfully facing the sun, giving readers a chance to revel in the moment. The composition and background are simple, making it easy to enjoy the moment.

## *Art Photo*

First Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Will Waldron**

This could be on a post card. The time of day is imperative to this photo, the angle of the lighting and the opportunity to capture the soft mist in the background... half an hour later and it wouldn't be the same photo. Great exposure, great composition. This scene has been captured so beautifully it looks like it could be the







# Excellence Awards

subject of a Bob Ross painting. Reporting on the weather can be such a challenge, with those type of photos sometimes quite boring or overdone. Choice of subject matter is excellent, photograph is well executed, I find nothing here that detracts from the image. I don't think it's possible for someone to look at this and say, "I don't like it."

## *Art Photo*

Second Place

### **Times Union**

Albany

#### **Will Waldron**

Another great weather photo, this time illustrating sunny skies. Composition is great, repeated patterns are always easy on the eye and peaceful to look at. Angle captures the shadows perfectly and aids in the storytelling. Nothing that distracts from the narrative. A clever idea for the depiction of a sunny day. Outside the box. Looks like something you might find in an photography display at an art gallery.

## *Art Photo*

Third Place

### **Villager (NYC), The**

Brooklyn

#### **Bob Krasner**

A True Triple Threat is my selection for third place. Fun, cool, eye-catching. A captivating take on this image which supports and fits the theme and style of the article it accompanies. It looks like it could be an album cover or a band poster.

## *Picture Story*

First Place, Division 1

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

#### **Lori Hawkins**

Story set of images, several on moving watercraft, tell the story of training, rigging, and sailing. Photographer also provided detailed captions for the collection of these women working as a team to experience the open water. Good seeing with light and contrast in the toning of your images. Congratulations. Thanks for taking us on a visual sailing experience.

## *Picture Story*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

#### **Dana Shaw**

These images tell a story of an inviting theater project for young kids. Nicely done.

## *Picture Story*

Third Place, Division 1

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Ross Corsair**

Solid edit of little moments made this work in a single page story. Images each had a had strong stand-alone value and worked well as a collection. Nice tight edit.

## *Picture Story*

First Place, Division 2

### **Queens Chronicle**

Glendale

#### **Michael Shain**

Entries throughout this category captured good moments. Images by our winner captured a fabulous spirit of active subjects and their color splattering. Fun to view. Vibrant little moments. Moments are our friend.

## *Picture Story*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

#### **David Ambro**

Several fun moments within the 2-page layout. Good community coverage.

## *Picture Story*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

#### **Christopher Zenith**

Strong images of high-performance aircraft.

## *Spot News Photos*

First Place

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Q. Sakamaki**

This gallery shows a quickly evolving scene with many characters. There are action photos and sense of place images so we have a full understanding of the people and the scene. There are some well-composed, yet complicated compositions with good layers and motion. The contrast between the 'bus rider' and the 'Central Park' images shows visual diversity.

## *Spot News Photos*

Second Place

### **The Daily News**

Batavia

#### **Mark Gutman**

A background full of flames and sparks is at contrast to a calm singular firefighter atop a truck. The image shows scale and danger, and literally...calm under fire.

## *Spot News Photos*

Third Place

### **The Village Sun**

New York

#### **Milo Hess**

There's an artful study of signs and faces showing the mix of emotions and conflicting views of those at the event. Beyond the signs are a detail of the ground and some interaction. Good variety from a fluid scene.

## *Graphic Illustration*

First Place

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Deb Lucke**

I was so impressed with this entry that I did a search on the artist's name to make sure she is a staff member. How lucky you are to have her as an "investigative cartoonist." This is beautiful work, telling a scientific story in comic style. Her "Mudlarkey" entry was good, too, but there were many good entries in this category.

## *Graphic Illustration*

Second Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

#### **Kerri Cunningham**

Other entries were more artistic, but I doubt any were read as closely as this one. Listing the "water hogs" by name and address took guts. Did your phones ring after the chart was published?

## *Graphic Illustration*

Third Place

### **River Reporter, The**

Narrowsburg

#### **Amanda Reed**

You jumped ahead of other excellent entries because you supplemented the "whom to call" info with QR codes. That was brilliant.

## *Best Special Section Cover*

First Place, Division 2

### **Williston Times**

Roslyn Heights

#### **Yvonne Farley**

Really excellent use of leading lines in building with text over texture piece (fabric) and frame. Would pirate this and frame a travel photo over this. Really nice production. Makes a reader want to go inside for a visit.

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Top 2...both from same operation. Both really well presented. Great use of the map graphic in the text. Well balanced words with imagery, Works really well together.

## *Best Special Section Cover*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Nassau Herald**

Garden City

#### **Jeffrey A. Negrin**

Another really excellent use of text on black with fun "clinks" of glasses as backdrop. Long Island Choice Awards makes me want to open this up over a cocktail.

## *Special Sections/Niche*

### *Publications-Newsprint*

First Place, Division 1

### **The Northport Observer**

Smithtown

#### **Tom Allegra and David Ambro**

I'm overwhelmed by the size, quality and amount of time and effort dedicated to to this section.

## *Special Sections/Niche*

### *Publications-Newsprint*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Long Island Advance**

Patchogue

#### **Terry Tuthill, Nicole Fuentes**

#### **and Andrew Ingenito**

I love the old time feel

## *Special Sections/Niche*

### *Publications-Newsprint*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Rockville Centre Herald**

Garden City

#### **Jeffrey A. Negrin**

Excellent school recognition

## *Special Sections/Niche*

### *Publications-Newsprint*

First Place, Division 2

### **Dan's Papers**

Brooklyn

#### **Stephanie Bitis and Dan**

#### **Boccard**

Wow. Great coverage. Great design. Great ad content.



# Best Art Photo



**First Place**  
**Will Waldron**

**TIMES UNION**

The judges said: "This could be on a post card. The time of day is imperative to this photo, the angle of the lighting and the opportunity to capture the soft mist in the background...half an hour later and it wouldn't be the same photo. Great exposure, great composition. This scene has been captured so beautifully it looks like it could be the subject of a Bob Ross painting. Choice of subject matter is excellent, photograph is well executed, I find nothing here that detracts from the image."



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The judges said: "This gallery shows a quickly evolving scene with many characters. There are action photos and sense of place images so we have a full understanding of the people and the scene. There are some well-composed, yet complicated compositions with good layers and motion. The contrast between the 'bus rider' and the 'Central Park' images shows visual diversity."



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# Excellence Awards

## *Special Sections/Niche Publications-Newsprint*

Second Place, Division 2

### **North Country**

#### **Free Press**

Granville

**Jane Cosey, Deb Brosseau, Renae McKittrick, Julie Fedler and Catherine Oliverio**

Just what a guide should be.

## *Special Sections/Niche Publications-Newsprint*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

“A Helping Hand” – great concept, great execution, great photography, great page layouts.

## *Special Sections/Niche Publications-Glossy*

First Place, Division 1

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Outstanding. I have never been to the area, or had interest, but the magazine was inviting and I want to read more.

## *Special Sections/Niche Publications-Glossy*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Port Washington News**

Mineola

Well focused on design and decor. Easy to read layout and typography, good local editorial content

## *Special Sections/Niche Publications-Glossy*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Port Washington News**

Mineola

“Gold Coast” – lovely to look at, and a fun read. Beautiful ads - looks like it also made money – nice job!

## *Best Real Estate/Home Section*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

**Brendan J. O’Reilly and Joseph Finora**

Exceptional work. Beautiful are and engaging infographics. Solid local editorial.

## *Best Real Estate/Home Section*

Second Place

### **Dan’s Papers**

Brooklyn

**Stephanie Bitis and**

**Taylor Vecsey**

Wonderful style. Visually appealing. Excellent layout draws the reader in.

## *Best Real Estate/Home Section*

Third Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Excellent work throughout.

## *Best Special Section - Advertising*

First Place

### **Amherst Bee**

Williamsville

**Stephanie Zawadzki and Linda Jurdi**

This was a very attractive and had a cohesive look throughout. The merchant directory was helpful and the local stories were way more interesting than canned copy; draws the readers & shoppers in.

## *Best Special Section - Advertising*

Second Place

### **Southampton Press-**

#### **Eastern Edition**

Southampton

Great use of photos. They say you eat with your eyes first and this did not disappoint!

## *Best Special Section - Advertising*

Third Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Eye catching cover. Love the clean look and full-page ads.

## *Best Advertising Campaign*

First Place

### **Warwick Advertiser**

Chester

**Christina Scotti**

VERY powerful ads. Best use of strong photos to really make an impact. Outstanding!

## *Best Advertising Campaign*

Second Place

### **The West Side Spirit**

New York

**Christina Scotti and**

**Molly Colgan**

These 3 ads are well done. Very informative with great ideas of events and activities to keep your winter fun and exciting. Nice use of photography and clean text and column layout. Excellent!

## *Best Advertising Campaign*

Third Place

### **North Country This**

#### **Week**

Potsdam

**Debbie Morgan and Cathy**

**Whalen**

Great graphics; consistent look throughout all the ads; clean font/text.

Like the vertical reverse on the left side of each ad. Well done!

## *Best Large Space Ad*

First Place, Division 1

### **Nassau Herald**

Garden City

This stunning ad touches me. The simplicity and pure elegance of this is beautiful. Love how white space was used to create such impact. Proves the point that sometimes less really is more! Outstanding!

## *Best Large Space Ad*

Second Place, Division 1

### **Southampton Press -**

#### **Western Edition**

Westhampton Beach

An awesome page in honor of a young football star. Eleven beautiful front sports section pages surrounding a congratulations message. Well done!

## *Best Large Space Ad*

Third Place, Division 1

### **Port Washington News**

Mineola

**Yvonne Farley**

Very creative. Great layout. Really like how the photographs of the children and toys are overlaying the bright but muted background. Great ad for sure!

## *Best Large Space Ad*

First Place, Division 2

### **Dan’s Papers**

Brooklyn

Very special indeed. Well put together. Great editorial paired with a fantastic graphic. The simplicity of the bottle and the use of lots of white space really make this stand out. Great job!

## *Best Large Space Ad*

Second Place, Division 2

### **Warwick Advertiser**

Chester

**Christina Scotti**

The incredible photograph as the complete backdrop is what really makes this ad stand out. The font choice and treatment of “Smokin’ HOT” really plays along too. Reversed logos stand out strong as well. Great ad!

## *Best Large Space Ad*

Third Place, Division 2

### **The Chronicle (Goshen)**

Chester

**Christina Scotti**

Fun piece. Great photos. The Rockwell font overlaying the horse photo really works well. This ad does make you want to attend the fair. Nicely done!

## *Best Small Space Ad*

First Place, Division 1

### **Lake Placid News**

Saranac Lake

**Carol Swirsky**

So clean!!! So appealing because of the cleanliness. Great Job!!!

## *Best Small Space Ad*

Second Place, Division 1

### **The Village Times**

#### **Herald**

Setauket

**Beth Heller Mason**

Ad full of stuff but you made it feel less crowded and very clean. Way to work it! Great job.

## *Best Small Space Ad*

Third Place, Division 1

### **The Highlands Current**

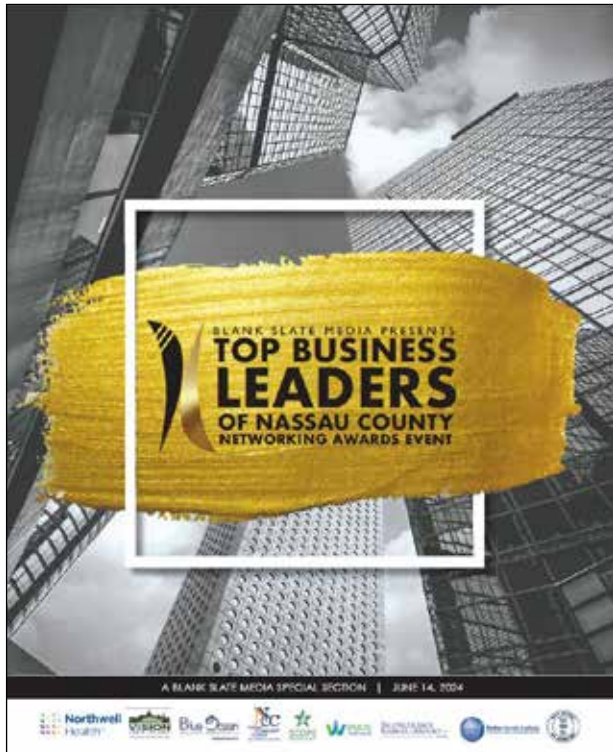
Cold Spring

**Pierce Strudler**

The ad was small but organized and nice. I think the size helped it. It was dignified and mature. I loved it!



# Best Special Section Cover



## First Place

Yvonne Farley

Williston Times

The judges said: "Really excellent use of leading lines in building with text over texture piece (fabric) and frame. Would pirate this and frame a travel photo over this. Really nice production. Makes a reader want to go inside for a visit."



## Second Place

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Williston Times

The judges said: "Top 2...both from same operation. Both really well presented. Great use of the map graphic in the text. Well balanced words with imagery, Works really well together."



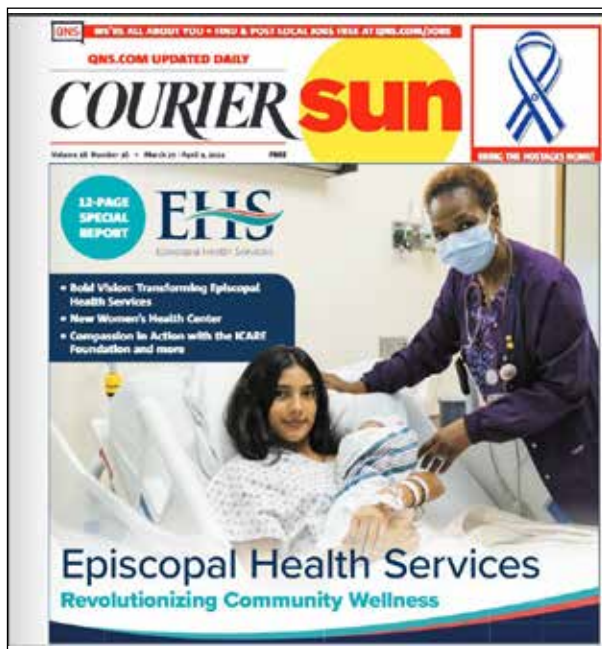
## Third Place

Jeffrey A. Negrin

Nassau Herald

The judges said: "Another really excellent use of text on black with fun 'clinks' of glasses as backdrop. Long Island Choice Awards makes me want to open this up over a cocktail."

# Best Innovative Ad Project



## First Place

Ilene Kazanji, Czarinna Andres,  
Leah Mitch

Caribbean Life: Queens/Bronx/  
Manhattan

The judges said: "Great advertorial concept to educate the community while not making it look like an 'advertisement.'"



## Second Place

Bill Shumway, Debbie Morgan,  
Amanda Hitterman

North Country This Week

The judges said: "Like the concept of sponsors paying for 'article' space. It's a win for the organizations and the newspaper."



## Third Place

Carol Swirsky

Adirondack Daily Enterprise

The judges said: "Doing this in a 'catalog' form made it much more interesting and visually appealing. Great way for the advertiser to promote their products."



# Excellence Awards

## *Best Small Space Ad*

First Place, Division 2

### **Warwick Advertiser**

Chester

#### **Megan Bowen**

This ad was plain and simple and I loved it! Caught my eye. Excellent work.

## *Best Small Space Ad*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Garden City News**

Garden City

The clock caught my eye with it being the only color. Great ad!

## *Best Small Space Ad*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Amherst Bee**

Williamsville

#### **Jeanne Sucher**

Good clean ad that had everything you needed to know without being too busy. Wonderful ad!

## *Best Multi-Advertiser*

### *Pages*

First Place

### **The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Attractive layout and artwork; like that it's an organic shared page of modified sized boxes.

## *Best Multi-Advertiser*

### *Pages*

Second Place

### **The Village Times**

#### **Herald**

Setauket

Nice, clean, easy-to read layout.

## *Best Multi-Advertiser*

### *Pages*

Third Place

### **Lynbrook/East**

#### **Rockaway Herald**

Garden City

#### **Jeffrey A. Negrin**

Cute, organic concept for a shared page. Makes you want to read each one.

## *Best Media Kit/*

### *Sales Collateral*

First Place

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Michele Gedney, Pierce**

#### **Strudler and Lauren Cook**

An easy-to-read rate card that is user friendly. It's only eight pages compared to some that were over 20 making some entries look more like visitor guides rather than rate cards which can overwhelm prospective advertisers.

## *Best Media Kit/*

### *Sales Collateral*

Second Place

### **Dan's Papers**

Brooklyn

#### **Brienne Doskoez**

Visually appealing and easy to navigate.

## *Best Media Kit/*

### *Sales Collateral*

Third Place

### **RiverheadLOCAL**

Riverhead

#### **Courtney Blasl and Katie**

#### **Morosky**

An informative rate card with a personalized touch.

## *Audience Development*

### *Promotion*

First Place

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Emily Hare and Eleanor Hare**

Great way to get the community involved to shop local and visit a variety of locations. Kids and adults alike will find it fun (and delicious).

## *Audience Development*

### *Promotion*

Second Place

### **Whitehall Times**

Granville

#### **Chelsea Smith**

Love this! Great way for people to give/get a subscription while helping out those in need.

## *Audience Development*

### *Promotion*

Third Place

### **The Ithaca Voice**

Ithaca

Gentle donation ask and giving readers a view of these amazing photos will remind them of your value.

## *Best House Ad/*

### *Ad Campaign*

First Place, Division 1

### **Raider/Panther**

#### **Reporter,**

Hawthorne

#### **Eileen Farrell and Todd Sliss**

So fun yet clean. Nicely done!

## *Best House Ad/*

### *Ad Campaign*

Second Place, Division 1

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Pierce Strudler**

Excellent! Love sharp clean lines. Well done!

## *Best House Ad/*

### *Ad Campaign*

Third Place, Division 1

### **The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

#### **Lauren Cook, Emily Hare and**

#### **Pierce Strudler**

Clean lines and informative. Fun to read. Great job!

## *Best House Ad/*

### *Ad Campaign*

First Place, Division 2

### **Dan's Papers**

Brooklyn

#### **Sophia Lee**

So eye catching. Really good job. I would stop if I were walking by to take another look!

## *Best House Ad/*

### *Ad Campaign*

Second Place, Division 2

### **The Suffolk Times**

Mattituck

#### **Flora Cannon**

Clean and inviting. Great job!

## *Best House Ad/*

### *Ad Campaign*

Third Place, Division 2

### **Williston Times**

Roslyn Heights

#### **Yvonne Farley**

LOVED the normal people shown. Nice job!

## *Innovative Ad Project*

First Place

### **Caribbean Life -**

### **Queens/Bronx//**

#### **Manhattan Edition**

Brooklyn

#### **Ilene Kazanji, Czarinna Andres and Leah Mitch**

Great advertorial concept to educate the community while not making it look like an "advertisement."

## *Innovative Ad Project*

Second Place

### **North Country This**

#### **Week**

Potsdam

#### **Bill Shumway, Debbie Morgan,**

#### **Amanda Hitterman and Cathy**

#### **Whalen**

Like the concept of sponsors paying for "article" space. It's a win for the organizations and the newspaper.

## *Innovative Ad Project*

Third Place

### **Adirondack Daily**

#### **Enterprise**

Saranac Lake

#### **Carol Swirsky**

Doing this in a "catalog" form made it much more interesting and visually appealing for the consumer. Great way for the advertiser to promote their products.

## *Classified Advertising*

First Place

### **The Garden City News**

Garden City

#### **Debbie Velsmid and Griffin**

#### **Lord**

Good mix of line and display ads. Use of color to divide the classified ads was very helpful. Love the puzzles at the back of the section.

## *Classified Advertising*

Second Place

### **Dan's Papers**

Brooklyn

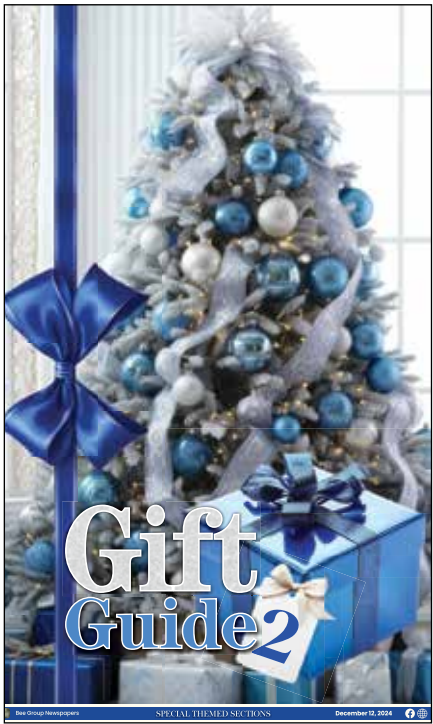
#### **Kathy Camarata and Steve**

#### **Daniel**

Impressive amount of display classified ads. Color makes an impact.



# Best Special Section Advertising

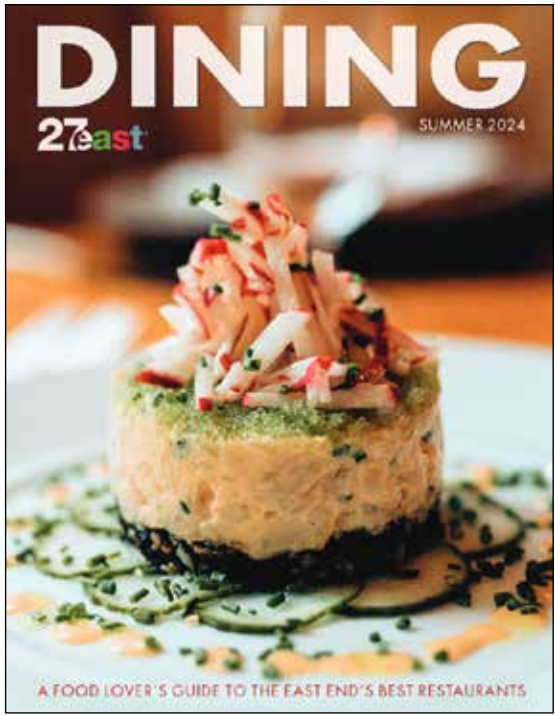


## First Place

**Amherst Bee**

**Stephanie Zawadzki and Linda Jurdi**

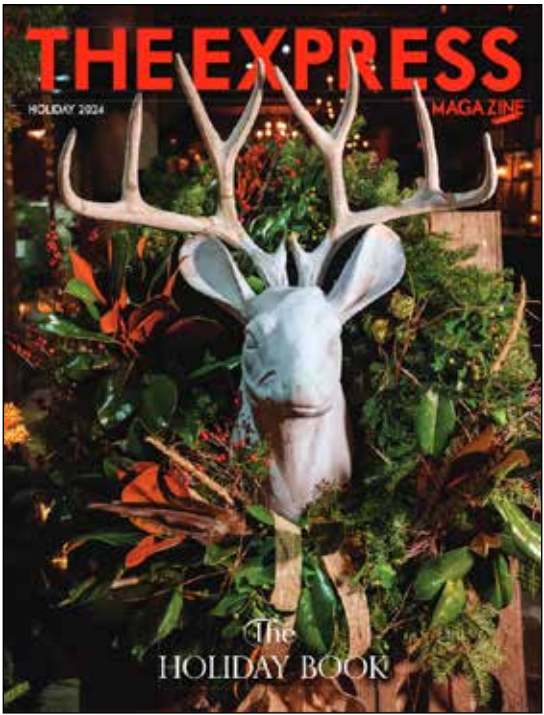
The judges said: "This was a very attractive and had a cohesive look throughout. The merchant directory was helpful and the local stories were way more interesting than canned copy; draws the readers & shoppers in."



## Second Place

**Southampton Press - Eastern Edition**

The judges said: "Great use of photos. They say you eat with your eyes first and this did not disappoint!"



## Third Place

**The East Hampton Press**

The judges said: "Eye catching cover. Love the clean look and full-page ads."

# Best Audience Development Promotion



## First Place

**The Highlands Current**

**Emily Hare, Eleanor Hare**

The judges said: "Great way to get the community involved to shop local and visit a variety of locations. Kids and adults alike will find it fun (and delicious)."



## Second Place

**Whitehall Times**

**Chelsea Smith**

The judges said: "Love this! Great way for people to give/get a subscription while helping out those in need."



## Third Place

**The Ithaca Voice**

The judges said: "Gentle donation ask and giving readers a view of these amazing photos will remind them of your value."



# Excellence Awards

## *Classified Advertising*

Third Place

**The Village Times**

**Herald**

Setauket

Clean layout. Well organized.

## *Best Video*

First Place

**The Highlands Current**

Cold Spring

**Erin Holton, Facundo**

**Martinez and Sofia Milojevic**

A great example of how video can add to the power of in-depth reporting. Well-paced and well structured, this video told us a story and gave us important news.

## *Best Video*

Second Place

**Adirondack Explorer**

Saranac Lake

**Chloe Bennett**

The Adirondack Explorer’s “Climate Voices,” here focusing on composting, is powerful because it does indeed give voice to specific issues.

## *Best Video*

Third Place

**Red Hook Daily Catch**

Red Hook

**Brielle Polizzano, Will Haydon and Samantha Stulbaum**

I loved how the Daily Catch used video to tell this story about an artist and her community. Technically beautiful, the video demonstrates the value of presenting a story via video.

## *Best Podcast*

First Place

**The East Hampton Press**

Southampton

Really like the idea of an election time mini-series of podcasts. The production is really sharp.

## *Best Podcast*

Second Place

**Cortland Standard**

Cortland

**Paul Cifonelli**

There’s an electric energy to this because I can tell how passionate the editor is about the subject and how excited he is to talk to the guests. It’s also such a great idea to do a sports-specific podcast.

## *Best Podcast*

Third Place

**City & State**

New York

**Tom Allon and Julie Samuels**

Really professional sound, and a good mix of news and a conversational, bantering style without ever becoming boring.

## *Best Newsletter*

First Place

**The East Hampton Star**

East Hampton

**Mark Segal, Christine**

**Sampson, Carissa Katz, Baylis**

**Greene and Matt Charron**

LOTS of information in those. (Note to all who enter contests: The strategy letter and other insight documentation attached to these newsletters allowed this judge to see the entry in a more-informed light. I may well not have appreciated the entry as much without the background information.)

## *Best Newsletter*

Second Place

**amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

**Emily Davenport**

Lots of good content. The little green hints here and there look good (and I feel the pain of the designer). Nice art as well.

## *Best Newsletter*

Third Place

**amNewYork Metro**

Brooklyn

**Emily Davenport**

Nice art. Well designed.

## *Best Online*

### *Breaking News*

First Place

**Red Hook Daily Catch**

Red Hook

**Emily Sachar, Grace Molenda,**

**Andrew Checchia and Lila**

**McGuckin**

Love the call out to readers and the depth of reporting. The first-hand accounts and personal impact makes coverage standout in a sea of similar basic reporting about damage.

## *Best Online*

### *Breaking News*

Second Place

**Times Union**

Albany

**Patrick Tine**

Love that you were able to, and took the time to, do additional vetting and uncover something previously missed by officials. Prime example of why community news is so crucial.

## *Best Online*

### *Breaking News*

Third Place

**Times Union**

Albany

**Daniel Roberts, Steve Hughes and Will Waldron**

Good job personalizing this coverage both in the pilot who was killed and the residents who lived near the crash site.

## *Overall Magazine*

### *Excellence*

First Place

**The Post-Standard**

Syracuse

**Amy Bleier Long, MJ Kravec**

**and Susan Santola**

I enjoyed this magazine’s clean layout with good use of white space, beautiful photos and interesting stories.

## *Overall Magazine*

### *Excellence*

Second Place

**The Suffolk Times**

Mattituck

**Lee Meyer, Amy Zavatto,**

**Wendy Scofield and Maria**

**Gennaro**

This magazine is beautiful. The ad content is as important as the extraordinary editorial content. Page layouts are stunning, clean. Terrific headlines. And the photography...

## *Overall Magazine*

### *Excellence*

Third Place

**Lake Champlain Weekly**

Plattsburgh

Stunning photography and page layouts. Local, local, local – love it!

## *Best Personality Profile*

First Place

**The Suffolk Times**

Mattituck

**Stephanie Villani**

The beautiful layout and photos draw the reader into this wonderful story of Regina Migdalski and how she was pulled into the fishing.

## *Best Personality Profile*

Second Place

**Fire Island and Great**

**South Bay News**

West Hempstead

**Linda Leuzzi and Patrice**

**Casanova**

“Isabella’s Element” – great read, fun insights. A special treat for readers who turned the page and found this delicious treat.

## *Best Personality Profile*

Third Place

**City & State**

New York

**Sahalie Donaldson**

In-depth piece, well written; elegant photography and page design support the theme of the piece. Readers surely were appreciative of this impressive work.

## *Best Themed Issue*

First Place

**Sag Harbor Express**

Southampton

The Express Magazine – great layout with beautiful photography – so glad you invited your readers into this lovely space.

## *Best Themed Issue*

Second Place

**Suffolk Times, The**

Mattituck

**Lee Meyer and Amy Zavatto**

Northforker – Wellness. Well done!

Classy, clean, thoughtful content, beautiful design.

## *Best Themed Issue*

Third Place

**Eagle Bulletin**

**Syracuse**

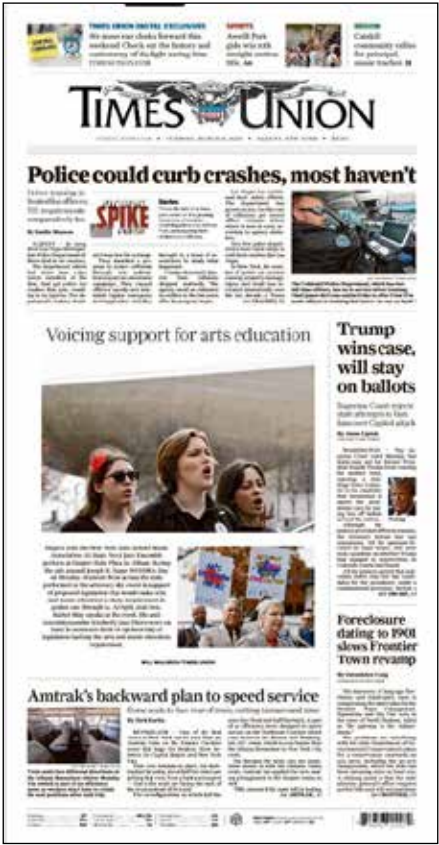
Syracuse Woman – dedicated to women’s heart health. Kudos to your ad staff – great volume of pertinent, well-designed ads. Inviting page layouts and important content. Nicely done!



# 2024 Newspaper Of The Year

## Times Union

The Times Union won 430 points in NYPA’s statewide Better Newspaper Contest, almost all of them in editorial categories. Their investigative reporting team will share the \$5,000 A-Mark prize and take home \$2,500 for the company. The Times Union previously won this award in 2022 and tied with The Highlands Current in 2023. The breadth and depth of their coverage is consistent, relevant, and engaging. Congratulations!



2024 Stuart C. Dorman Award For Editorial Excellence

## Times Union

Trade-marked by former NBA coach, Pat Riley, a three-peat is a sports term for three consecutive championships – congratulations to the Times Union on their three-peat for editorial excellence in NYPA’s 2024 Better Newspaper Contest. The Times Union earned 410 points in the editorial contest, including first-place awards for best editorial page, best news website, investigative reporting, coverage of education, coverage of the arts, coverage of health, healthcare and science, coverage of crime, police, and courts, coverage of elections and politics, news story, feature story, news or feature series, column, distinguished coverage of diversity, feature photo, and art photo. Phew! That’s 15 first place awards! Congratulations!

## 2024 John J. Evans Award For Advertising Excellence

### East Hampton Press

Congratulations to the **East Hampton Press** for earning 85 points in the advertising contest, narrowly edging out last year’s winner, Dan’s Papers. The staff at the **East Hampton Press** earned first-place awards for advertising excellence, special sections (glossy), best real estate/home section, and best multi-advertiser pages, and third place awards for special sections (newsprint), best real estate/home section and best special section – advertising

### 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 - Times Union                             |
| 2006 - The North Shore Sun    | 2023 - TIE - Times Union and Highlands Current |

### 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                      | 2008 - The East Hampton Press                   |
| 1992 - The Riverdale Press                    | 2009 - The Suffolk Times                        |
| 1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2010 - Nassau Herald                            |
| 1994 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2011 - The Village Times Herald                 |
| 1995 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2012 - The Record-Review                        |
| 1996 - The Record-Review                      | 2013 - TIE - The Record-Review, The Epoch Times |
| 1997 - The Record-Review                      | 2014 - The Epoch Times                          |
| 1998 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2015 - Dan's Papers                             |
| 1999 - The Record-Review                      | 2016 - The Sag Harbor Express                   |
| 2000 - The Village Times                      | 2017 - Dan's Papers                             |
| 2001 - The Record-Review                      | 2018 - Dan's Papers                             |
| 2002 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2019 - TIE: Dan's Papers, The Post-Standard     |
| 2003 - The Record-Review                      | 2020 - The Post-Standard                        |
| 2004 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2021 - The Post-Standard                        |
| 2005 - The Scarsdale Inquirer                 | 2022 - The Post-Standard                        |
| 2006 - The Southampton Press- Eastern Edition | 2023 - Dan's Papers                             |
| 2007 - The River Reporter                     |   |

Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform  
First Place  
**Tower**  
Dobbs Ferry  
Great story choice, wonderful graphics and a strong opinion page made The Tower stand out in this competitive field.

Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform  
Second Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Hats off to the Spectator for taking its journalism mission seriously and stretching that mission to its larger community. I especially loved the “Blast From The Past” feature, which I’m sure is a popular read.

Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform  
Third Place  
**Horizon**  
Lynbrook  
Lovely design and solid, comprehensive coverage of the school community.

**News Story**  
First Place  
**Tower**  
Dobbs Ferry  
Siena Versaci  
A fascinating example of how much we can learn if we listen to others. Kudos to the writer for giving voice to these students.

**News Story**  
Second Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Ray Dai  
We loved this ambitious examination of the community’s water supply because it’s well done but also because it underscores the fact that students care about their community.

**News Story**  
Third Place  
**Horizon**  
Lynbrook  
Cassandra Levinson  
Interesting, important and well-executed.

**Feature Story**  
First Place  
**Tower**  
Dobbs Ferry  
Neena Atkins and Allie Faber  
Impressive, enterprising article about a complex subject. Multiple voices, clear writing and good structure also made this entry stand out in the crowded field.

# 2024 BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

## The Spectator

*Congratulations to all high school competitors!*

*Hats off to the student-run newspaper of the Fredonia Central School District which repeats as the Best High School newspaper in New York State after previously taking home those honors in 2023. The staff at The Spectator earned 100 points including first-place awards for best column and best photography. The judges said, “Hats off for taking your journalism mission seriously. Your ambitious work demonstrates how much you care about the community you live in. Columns addressed fascinating topics with clear writing. Photography is consistently very good.”*

*The Spectator narrowly edged out Tower, of Dobbs Ferry, which earned 95 points and first place for best overall newspaper, news story, feature story and design.*

*The judges said, “Great story choices, solid opinion pieces and great design make this newspaper a treasure.”*

**Feature Story**  
Second Place  
**Horizon**  
Lynbrook  
Kerry Cullen  
The best stories are those telling us something new, something we care about and something we need to understand. This did all three.

**Feature Story**  
Third Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Brady Crawford  
By taking a hard look at the subject of grades, Crawford draws attention to an overlooked but important topic. Multiple voices and clear writing.

**Column**  
First Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Owyn Darrell-Sterbak  
Solid point of view, fascinating topics and clear writing made this column a winner.

**Column**  
Second Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Ava Hartung  
Thoughtful commentary on serious topics.

**Column**  
Third Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Sophia Gullo  
We loved the personal quality of these columns.

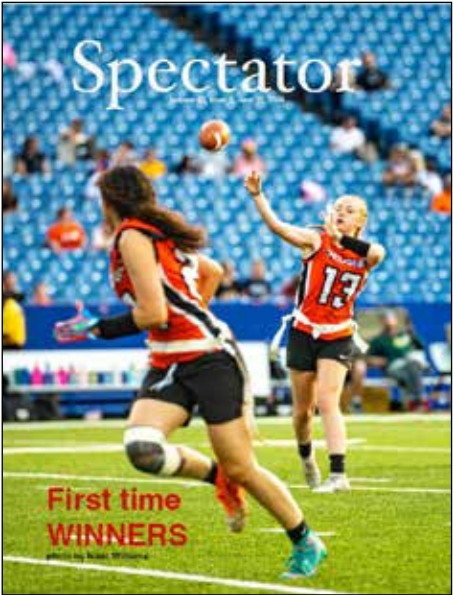
**Design**  
First Place  
**Tower**  
Dobbs Ferry  
Bold and innovative, with strong sense of how design adds value to journalism.

**Design**  
Second Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Strong photos well-played made The Spectator stand out.

**Photography**  
First Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Isaac Williams  
Photographer expertly captured the speed and emotion of the game in this lovely, colorful photo.

**Photography**  
Second Place  
**The Spectator**  
Fredonia  
Cooper Stenger  
One of the best eclipse photos published last year.

**Photography**  
Third Place  
**Horizon**  
Lynbrook  
Sean Strohofer  
Masterful sports photo illustrates the speed and power of the players.



**Best Sports Story**  
First Place  
**Chaminade Athletics**  
Mineola  
Roman Brunetti  
Brunetti captures the intensity of an important game with writing that is both clear and perceptive.

**Best Sports Story**  
Second Place  
**Tower**  
Dobbs Ferry  
Allie Faber  
A serious important and tough story to tackle. Very commendable.”

**Best Sports Story**  
Third Place  
**Chaminade Athletics**  
Mineola  
Thomas Gamba  
We loved the narrative approach to Gamba’s game story. A fun, fascinating read.

**Best Online News Site**  
First Place  
**The Verdict**  
Bayside  
Well-designed and easy to navigate and chock full of new news.

**Best Online News Site**  
Second Place  
**The Phoenix**  
Uniondale  
Grace Andino  
Nice site with updated content. Good selection of videos.

**Best Online News Site**  
Third Place  
**Tower**  
Dobbs Ferry  
Great use of images on this well-designed website.



Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform

First Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

In this incredibly competitive category *The Ithacan* stood out for its breath of coverage, clear writing and smart design.

Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform

Second Place

Campus Times

Rochester

This paper was filled with timely, relevant and varied news. Kudos for the voter guide.

Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform

Third Place

The Leader

Fredonia

What a fun, interesting paper. Design was fabulous and story choices offered provided something for everyone.

News Story

First Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Kai Lincke, Noa Ran-Ressler and Vivian Rose

A timely, relevant and complex story expertly written. Bravo.

News Story

Second Place

The Hill News

Canton

Zach Jaworski

A serious and well-written piece on aging campus boilers. Kudos for tackling this subject.

News Story

Third Place

Campus Times

Rochester

Narm Nathan, Emmely Eli

Texcucano and Teddy Almond

Extraordinary coverage of breaking news during a time of campus unrest.

Feature Story

First Place

Vanguard

Brooklyn

Kate Dempsey

A great feature story focusing on an important topic for our time and relevant to your audience.

2024 BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

The Ithacan

Congratulations to all the entrants in the college newspaper contest!

The Ithacan is the 2024 winner of the Best College Newspaper Contest. Earning 135 points, including first-place awards for best overall newspaper, news story, design, photography, sports and best online news site, The Ithacan once again demonstrated its dominance in the college newspaper competition. The judges said, “The breadth of topics, clear writing, smart design, and extraordinary use of graphics propelled this newspaper quickly to the top. Lots of action on the website; compelling columns that take strong positions and offer solutions. The Ithaca College community is so well served by the excellent reporting provided by this newspaper.”

Feature Story

Second Place

Campus Times

Rochester

Subaah Syed

Profiling a person everyone on campus knows and likes was brilliant. Clear writing, nicely organized.

Feature Story

Third Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Nolan Sheehan

Solid writing made for compelling coverage of this crossword event.

Column

First Place

The Impact

Dobbs Ferry

Gabriela Jiminez

The best columns are those that provide a distinctive voice on important topics. These columns did just that, clearly and compellingly.

Column

Second Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Gabe Hendershot

We love columns that take strong positions and offer solutions. Hendershot does that with real issues facing college students.

Column

Third Place

The Impact

Dobbs Ferry

Nicholas Chad Roth

Columns don’t always have to be serious and Roth does a solid job of bringing his readers a bit of humor.

Design

First Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Great design with extraordinary use of graphics. I loved the restrained but bold use of the different font.

Design

Second Place

The Leader

Fredonia

Wonderful graphics and trailblazing fonts.

Design

Third Place

Western Student Press Brentwood

Clean, simple, expertly executed.

Photography

First Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Marissa Moschella

Fascinating image well executed.

Photography

Second Place

The Leader

Fredonia

Drew Paluch

Lovely images expertly rendered and beautifully lit.

Photography

Third Place

The Impact

Dobbs Ferry

Bri Nicotina

This basketball closeup captured emotion and intensity in a sharp, well-lit photo.



Best Sports Coverage

First Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Athletes at Ithaca are fortunate to have a paper that covers them so well.

Best Sports Coverage

Second Place

State Times

Oneonta

Good job covering a wide range of sports.

Best Sports Coverage

Third Place

The Hill News

Canton

Matt Taylor and Zach Jaworski

Prolific, well-written and inclusive. We loved these sports stories.

Best Online News Site

First Place

The Ithacan

Ithaca

Lots of action on this website, with lots of current news and strong design.

Best Online News Site

Second Place

The Hill News

Canton

Suzy L’Hommedieu, Erin Harty, Emma Kahle, Brooke Martindale and Zach Jaworski

Regularly updated with a variety of news. Site was a pleasure to navigate.

Best Online News Site

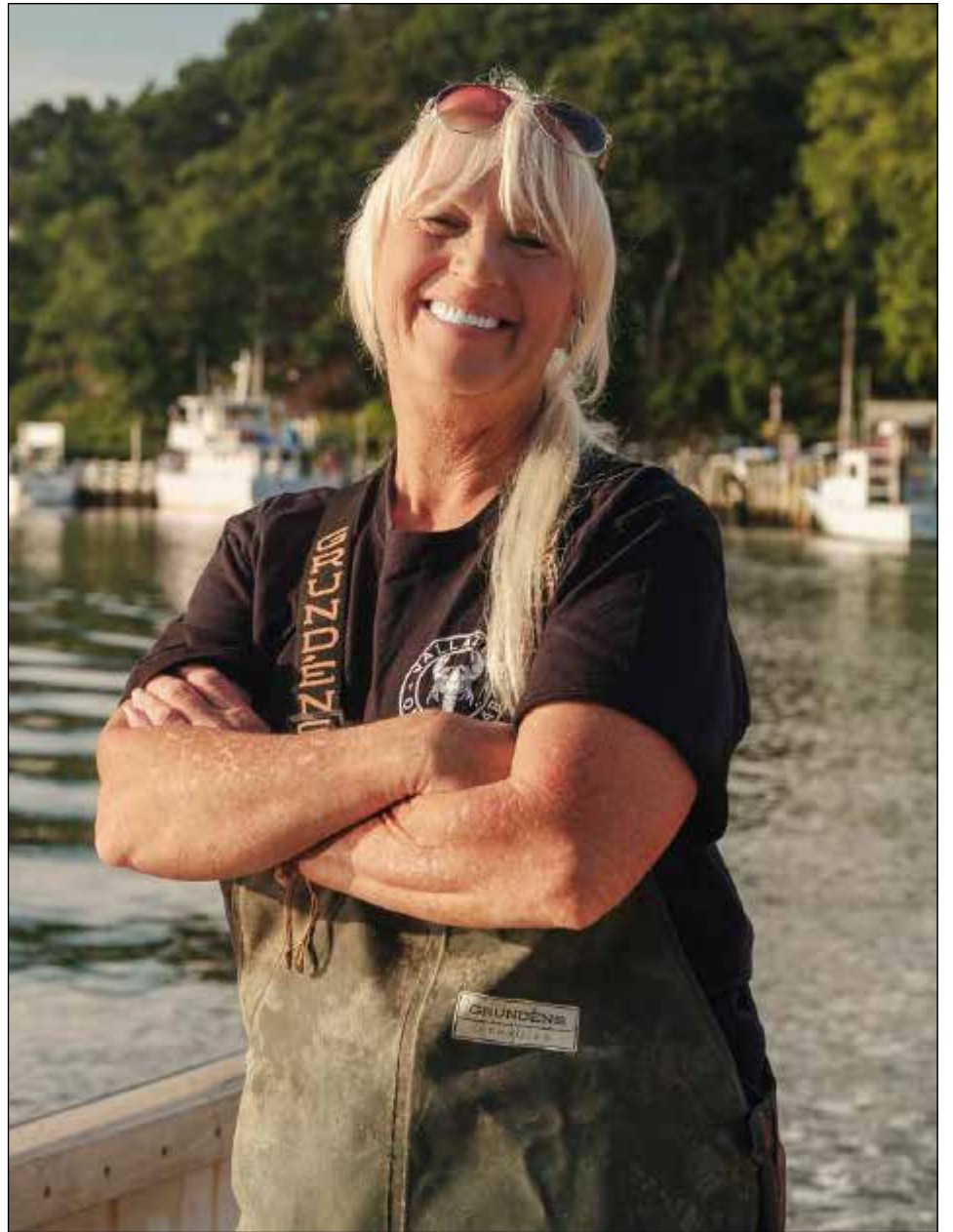
Third Place

The Impact

Dobbs Ferry

Great use of images on this well-designed website.





*Congrats!*

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