

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
2025 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



Celebrating

NEWSPAPER EXCELLENCE



And the Winners Are...

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR The Rye Record *and* amNewYork Metro

STUART C. DORMAN AWARD

Editorial Excellence

The Rye Record *and* amNewYork Metro

JOHN J. EVANS AWARD

Advertising Excellence

The Recorder News *and* Newsday

WRITER OF THE YEAR

Ambrose Clancy

Shelter Island Reporter

ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Sol Hauser

Livingston County News

SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

Steven Kerney

The Rye Record

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Dean Moses

amNewYork Metro

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The Examiner

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Newsday

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

The Brooklyn Paper — **First Place**

BEST FRONT PAGE

Watertown Daily Times — **First Place, Division 1**

amNewYork Metro — **First Place, Division 2**

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Times Union — **First Place**

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

The Overlook News — **First Place**

BEST FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

amNewYork Metro — **First Place**

BEST OVERALL DIGITAL NEWS PLATFORM

The Highlands Current — **First Place, Division 1**

Dan's Papers — **First Place, Division 2**

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PHOTO CREDITS

FRONT COVER

TOP - "SQUARE OF DESPAIR"

Dean Moses
amNewYork Metro

BOTTOM LEFT - BOXING

Casey Martin
The Ithaca Voice

BOTTOM RIGHT - SKIING

Jim MacLean
The Record News

BACK COVER

TOP LEFT - FROZEN GORGES

Casey Martin
The Ithaca Voice

MIDDLE LEFT - DEMO DERBY

Casey Martin
The Ithaca Voice

BOTTOM LEFT - PARADE

Jim MacLean
The Recorder News

TOP RIGHT - HUSTLE

Dean Moses
amNewYork Metro

MIDDLE RIGHT - MASS SHOOTING

Dean Moses
amNewYork Metro

BOTTOM RIGHT - CARNIVAL

Jim MacLean
The Recorder News

Newspaper of the Year, 2025

THE RYE RECORD AND AMNEWYORK METRO

The Rye Record earned more than 210 points in the New York Press Association's statewide Better Newspaper Contest, with the vast majority of those points coming from editorial categories. Its investigative reporting and consistent coverage across community issues contributed to a standout performance. The paper's breadth and depth reflect a strong commitment to relevant, impactful journalism.

amNewYork Metro earned 425 points, one of the highest totals in the contest, driven largely by excellence in editorial categories. Its reporting demonstrates range and authority — from breaking news to investigative work — while maintaining a clear, engaging voice. The publication continues to set a high standard for accessible, high-impact journalism across New York City.

Together, both publications exemplify the strength of modern local journalism, delivering coverage that is deeply connected to the communities they serve.

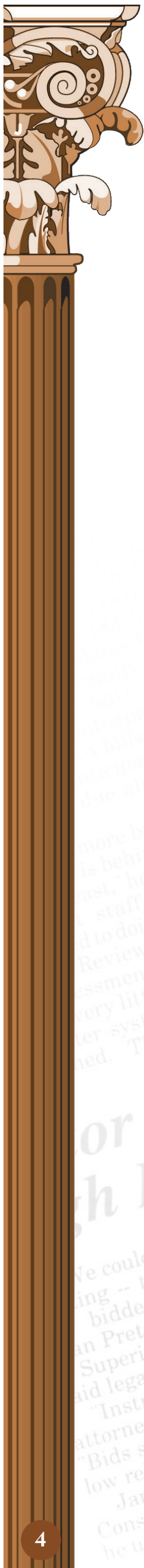


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The Berkshire Eagle

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 Michigan Press Association for taking the time to carefully and thoughtfully judge out entries; 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 Gabby O'Keefe for proofreading and contributing to the copy; to Rich Hotaling for the layout and design of this awards newspaper; to The Berkshire Eagle for printing and delivering this newspaper; 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!

BRYCE JACOBSON — Executive Director



About the 2025 Better Newspaper Contest...

150 newspapers submitted 2732 entries.

Participating newspapers competed for awards in 67 categories, and for the Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence and the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence.

389 awards were presented during NYPA's Spring Convention April 23rd and 24th, 2026. The entries were judged by members of the Michigan Press Association in January.

The winners were determined based on the following point system:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| EACH FIRST PLACE AWARD..... | 20 POINTS |
| EACH SECOND PLACE AWARD..... | 10 POINTS |
| EACH THIRD PLACE AWARD..... | 5 POINTS |



THE TOP FIVE — GROUP OR CHAIN NEWSPAPERS TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

Schneps Community News Group — 945 POINTS

AMNEWYORK METRO, BAY NEWS & BROOKLYN GRAPHIC, THE BROOKLYN PAPER, DAN'S PAPERS, FIRE ISLAND NEWS, GAY CITY NEWS, LONG ISLAND PRESS, NEW HYDE PARK - FLORAL PARK HERALD COURIER, PARK SLOPE COURIER, PORT WASHINGTON NEWS, QUEENS COURIER, THE RIDGEWOOD TIMES AND TIMES NEWSWEEKLY, ROSLYN NEWS TIMES, TIMESLEDGER, THE VILLAGER (NYC)

The Express News Group — 260 POINTS

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN EDITION, THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION, THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS, SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

Straus News — 145 POINTS

THE CHRONICLE (GOSHEN), THE PHOTO NEWS, WARWICK ADVERTISER

The North Shore News Group — 125 POINTS

THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER, THE SMITHTOWN NEWS

Times Beacon Record Newspapers — 105 POINTS

THE TIMES OF HUNTINGTON, THE TIMES OF SMITHTOWN TOWNSHIP, THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

THE TOP FIVE — SINGLE FLAG NEWSPAPERS TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

The Rye Record — 210 POINTS

The Recorder News — 175 POINTS

City & State — 115 POINTS

Red Hook Daily Catch — 115 POINTS

Dan's Papers — 105 POINTS

THE TOP FIVE NEWSPAPERS TOTAL EDITORIAL CONTEST POINTS:

amNewYork Metro — 400 POINTS

Times Union — 355 POINTS

Newsday — 225 POINTS

The Rye Record — 180 POINTS

The Brooklyn Paper — 95 POINTS (TIE)

Red Hook Daily Catch — 95 POINTS (TIE)

THE TOP FIVE NEWSPAPERS TOTAL ADVERTISING CONTEST POINTS:

The Recorder News — 90 POINTS

Newsday — 80 POINTS

The Village Times Herald — 55 POINTS

The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — 45 POINTS

Post Washington News — 45 POINTS

About the Competition...



CATEGORY 31—FEATURE STORY-NEWS—105 ENTRIES

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

- Division 1: Tim Rowland, Adirondack Explorer
Division 2: Kevin Oklobzija, Rochester Business Journal
Division 3: Michelle Trauring, Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
Division 4: Becca Tucker, The Chronicle (Goshen)
Division 5: The Rye Record
Division 6: Isabella Reilly, Long Island Press
Division 7: Wendy Liberatore, Time Union

CATEGORY 34—NEWS STORY—117 ENTRIES

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

- Division 1: Toby Rosewater, The Examiner
Division 2: Isabella Gallo, Port Washington News
Division 3: Alec Johnson, Watertown Daily Times
Division 4: Nicole Formisano, Long Island Press
Division 5: Adam Daly, amNewYork Metro

CATEGORY 43—FEATURE PHOTO(S)—64 ENTRIES

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

- Division 1: Dana Shaw, Southampton Press - Western Edition
Division 2: Katie McFadden, The Rockaway Times
Division 4: Dean Moses, amNewYork Metro

CATEGORY 26—ELECTIONS/POLITICS STORY—79 ENTRIES

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

- Division 1: Julia Rock and Chris Bragg, New York Focus
Division 2: Peter C. Mastro Simone, Queens Chronicle
Division 2: Emilie Munson, Times Union

CATEGORY 44—SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)—78 ENTRIES

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

- Division 1: Ron Esposito, Southampton Press - Western Edition
Division 2: Todd Falasco, The Northport Observer
Division 4: Thomas A. Ferrara, Newsday

CATEGORY 42—BEST COLUMN—61 ENTRIES

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

- Division 1: Tom Clavin, Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
Division 2: Chris Churchill, Times Union

CATEGORY 47—PICTURE STORY—50 ENTRIES

When just the right shot(s) make all the difference — congratulations to:

- Division 1: Ross Corsair, The Highlands Current
Division 2: Anthony Lifrieri, The Smithtown News

Excellence Awards

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

FIRST PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Exceptional use of space and community interaction. Every page feels like a completely new picture of a community, seamlessly blending and capturing the various stages of the area. Not too heavy handed, not too flowery: a perfect mix in great packaging and a joy to read. The entries show a complete commitment to any topic and a balanced approach to the community.

SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express
Southampton
Great examples of a complete understanding of a community and reader likes and needs. Great Job and this category was really difficult to judge with such great entries.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Excellent mirror of Queens and the people in the community. Every edition brings a fresh look into the region.

"ROOKIE" REPORTER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Livingston County News
Batavia
Sol Hauser
It is difficult to believe Sol Hauser is a "rookie" as her reporting and writing are on par with a seasoned veteran. Her initiative is clear as is her willingness to tackle difficult subjects and go the extra mile to cover a story from many angles. Her work on the SUNY Geneseo story is impressive. That piece alone would be enough to award her "Rookie" Reporter of the Year. Well done and keep up the good work.

SECOND PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Mayra Kaolora
Mayra Kaolora's writing is strong and her entry contained both news and features. She did a nice job of telling stories that reflect life in her community. I particularly liked her graduation story as it was a different take on a story we've all read many times.

THIRD PLACE

Suffolk County News
Patchogue
Connor Patton
Connor Patton provided a strong entry. I particularly liked his piece on veterans organizations.

WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter
Mattituck
Ambrose Clancy
Outstanding hard news entries, and his column about obituaries was one of the best things I read in this competition.

SECOND PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton
Michelle Trauring
Michelle's writing is outstanding, concise and detailed. Her story about the Southampton prom was at the same time heartwarming and heartbreaking.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses
Dean's coverage goes beyond the ordinary to tell the stories that matter in the community he covers.

SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Steven Kearney
Steven does a great job of bringing you into the story. In his article on a soccer team playing on back-to-back rainy days, he tells us they "laced up their soggy boots." It's a great mix of formal and conversational, which I appreciated.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Laura Albanese
I loved the foodie column, so fun and casual, then her next story is a well-researched and clearly written piece on a hugely expensive project next to Citi Field. Her story about how major leaguers spent their first paycheck was such a fun idea.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Steven Zaitz
I love a writer who tells it how it is. In a feature on a new football coach, he writes, "If Lauri was in search of challenges, he has come to the right place." Steven does a nice job of going beyond the story to find interesting angles, and his writing draws you in.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses
This photographer isn't afraid to be where the real action is and that is definitely seen in the photos. Some really nice work here that captures the emotion and tension of the scenes.

SECOND PLACE

The Ithaca Voice
Ithaca
Casey Martin
A very strong and complete portfolio. Liked the variation in topics covered along with a good combo of tight images and then letting some breathe.

THIRD PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Jim MacLean
Good mix of sports, news and features. Also appreciated the lens choices and the cropping decisions. This photographer went tight when needed but also could set a scene.

BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times
Watertown
Ellis Giacomelli
Compelling content well-displayed. These aren't quick superficial hits. These front pages offer depth and breadth so that readers don't just know what's going on, they understand it.

SECOND PLACE

Village Star-Revue
Brooklyn
George Fiala
This presentation has personality. It engages with a dynamic use of content to draw readers in.

THIRD PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Thane Grauel and Ann Marie Rezen
Clean design; packed with news. Story hierarchy is clear.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Alex Nunez, Luis Matos, Dean Moses and Robert Pozarycki
Strong, unflinching presentation. No distraction from those powerful stories. Excellent.

SECOND PLACE

TimesLedger
Flushing
Zach Gewelb and Luis Matos
Engaging. Excellent use of images to connect with readers immediately and draw them in. Use of tech touches - QR code - is smart.

THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat
Callicoon
Good story choices out front. Not as strong as the other two that won first and second place in this category, but it serves the readers well.

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Excellent Perspective section. Great topics; variety of views. Balanced. Good job. Keep it up!

SECOND PLACE

Nassau Herald
Garden City
Jim Harmon and Yolanda Rios
This was a close second. The editorial writer is excellent.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Peter C. Mastro Simone and Gregg Cohen
Straight and to-the-point editorials. A pleasure to read these amid lots of letters. Good job!

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

The Overlook News
Saugerties
Roy Gumpel and Michael Sofronski
The photos are displayed well in the layouts and contribute to a clean design.

SECOND PLACE

The Northport Observer
Smithtown
Leading the newspaper with strong photos and giving them the weight they deserve pushed this entry. Also, like the display of quality sports images.

THIRD PLACE

Southampton Press -
Western Edition
Westhampton Beach
Good photo usage throughout. Would be careful of using text on photos so frequently.

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
These entries are outstanding! Clear purpose easily translated emotions of stories, both serious and light. This is a hard category with such amazing entries, but you guys nailed it. Easy to navigate, excellent use of color and column changes to pull readers in. The touch of notices of "Newsday Only, What Newsday Found", is like having a search/AI engine in a print edition. Congrats!

SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express
Southampton
Sara Mannino Kent and Kerri Cunningham
Excellent entry. Such hard choices with the level of competition in New York Press. These papers have renewed faith in the newspaper industry.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Pierce Strudler
Very engaging news product. The variable headlines and creative impact bring the reader to see each page as a unique storyline like a personalized newsletter.

Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2025

There were 19 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE:

Sol Hauser
Livingston County News

Sol Hauser is a staff writer at *The Livingston County News* in Geneseo, N.Y.

Hauser, from Perry, N.Y., joined The LCN in October 2024 after graduating from the University at Buffalo, where she reported for *The Spectrum* student publication.

Hauser, who also assists *The Daily News* in Batavia, N.Y., provides in-depth coverage of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming counties to bring clarity, precision and meaning to daily news. Her enterprise reporting digs deeper than the headlines, pulls humanity to the surface and explains complex, politically sensitive issues simply. She also regularly contributes to breaking news, feature and community news pieces for The LCN.

"It is difficult to believe Sol Hauser is a 'rookie' as her reporting and writing are on par with a seasoned veteran. Her initiative is clear as is her willingness to tackle difficult subjects and go the extra mile to cover a story from many angles. Her work on the SUNY Geneseo story is impressive. That piece alone would be enough to award her 'Rookie' Reporter of the Year. Well done and keep up the good work."



SECOND PLACE:

Mayra Kaolora
The Rye Record

Mayra Kalaora is the City Life Reporter for *The Rye Record*. She grew up in Istanbul, Turkey, and graduated from Columbia University with degrees in Neuroscience and English. During her time as an undergraduate, she wrote for *The Eye Magazine of Columbia Daily Spectator* and interned at the *Bronx Times*.

"Mayra Kaolora's writing is strong and her entry contained both news and features. She did a nice job of telling stories that reflect life in her community. I particularly liked her graduation story as it was a different take on a story we've all read many times."

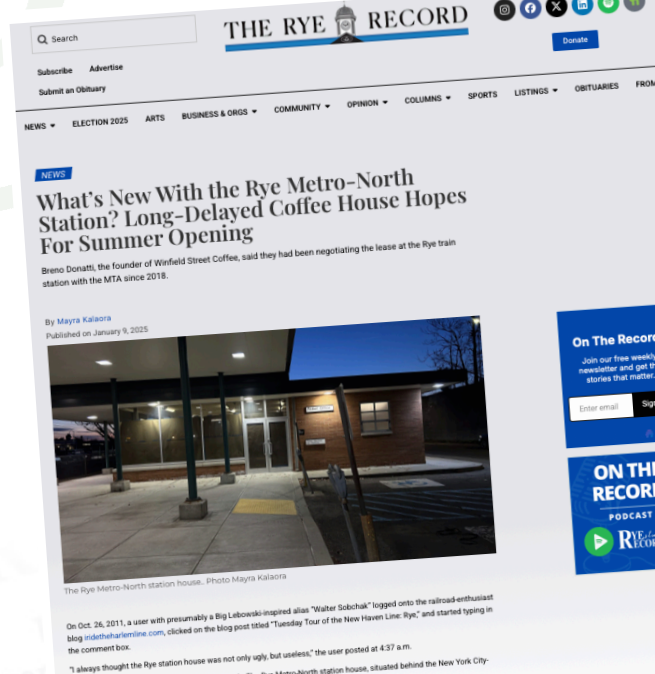


THIRD PLACE:

Connor Patton
Suffolk County News

Connor Patton is a reporter for *The Suffolk County News*, where he covers small-town neighborhood news across Suffolk County's South Shore. By showing up to any community events and meetings he can, Connor has built an ever-expanding list of sources who offer unique perspectives on local news. In December 2024, Connor graduated from New York University with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Politics after working as a staff writer for NYU's student newspaper, the *Washington Square News*. Before joining *The Suffolk County News* as a full-time reporter in May 2025, Connor worked as a local news reporter for Schneps Media Long Island from February to May 2025 in Port Washington and Roslyn, and as an intern with *The Long Island Advance* from May 2024 through February 2025.

"Connor Patton provided a strong entry. I particularly liked his piece on veterans organizations."



Excellence Awards

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ann Marie Rezen, Kathy Potter, Francesca Lynch and Paul Cardi
Clean layout and format of ad pages, well organized and easy to read. Local ads were designed well and the fall festival and holiday features were particularly interesting and enjoyable, editorial-wise as well as the theme-based advertising.

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press
Southampton
East Hampton Press is a well done, visually appealing and classy publication that does its job well. The layout is very organized and makes for an “easy read.” The ad placement is clean and well spaced. The in-house ads are visually appealing and effective. Classifieds are also well organized, including the service directory.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Pierce Strudler and Lauren Cook
The Highland Current lives up to its reader-funded status by providing an excellent publication for its community. Although smaller than its many competitors, it delivered on editorial coverage, a well-organized layout and high quality ad design. Beyond the agency provided advertising. The Home section in the 10/3 issue was very well done with interesting and informative articles and well-placed advertising to support the theme.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE

The Examiner
Mount Kisco
Adam Stone
Fantastic use of editorial resources and commitment to keep readers and a community caring about a topic.

Community Leadership

SECOND PLACE

New York Focus
Brooklyn
Alex Arriaga and Kate Harloe
Great model of making the most out of listening. Awesome entry.

Community Leadership

THIRD PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Jeff Morris
Great job utilizing news products to drive home this massively important topic for the community.

MICHELLE K. REA AWARD FOR BEST FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses
As attention on ICE and deportations grow, it's become even harder to cut through the propaganda. Moses and amNY are doing a huge service to readers showing something the federal government is trying to hide. The consistent coverage goes a long way to shedding light on this issue.

SECOND PLACE

New York Focus
Brooklyn
Chris Bragg
Well reported and in-depth research to show multiple conflicts of interest by New York politicians.

THIRD PLACE

The Examiner
Mount Kisco
Adam Stone and Abby Luby
Great use of FOIL to bring to light the separation agreement and its cost to the taxpayers. Really liked that it was linked in its entirety on the news site.

BEST OVERALL DIGITAL NEWS PLATFORM

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Thoughtfully produced site with strong user experience, from navigation bar to footer. I appreciated the community calendar and the ease of signing up for specific newsletters. Ad placement is especially well-considered.

SECOND PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ann Marie Rezen
A true companion to the print paper, and thoughtfully designed to connect the two throughout. Warm UX with the print reader in mind. Good use of ad space.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Christian Falcone and Jon Elsen
Local news sites have to perform a lot of jobs that niche news sites don't. *The Rye Record* allows you to navigate the site, from breaking news to obits, without thinking about the design — always a good sign.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers
Brooklyn
Refreshing site that's inviting and easy to navigate. Feels like it's made by locals, for locals.

SECOND PLACE

Long Island Press
Flushing
Eye-catching photos dominate the site design, and are paired with a quality user experience.

THIRD PLACE

Capital Region Living Magazine
Saratoga Spring
Natalie Moore
Substack platform/template with good news coverage for the region.

OVERALL MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

Capital Region Living Magazine
Saratoga Spring
Natalie Moore
Wow. This is a classy publication. Lots of interesting content with an emphasis on the readers it serves. It knows its market and that clearly shows.

SECOND PLACE

City & State
New York
This is a dynamic publication. Lots of energy and nice layout.

THIRD PLACE

Southampton Press-Eastern Edition
Southampton
The content themes are user-friendly.

MAGAZINE DESIGN EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

City & State
New York
Nice variety that appears to place a priority on its audience.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Valerie Hnatik, Tracy M. Brown and Royston Wilson
Focused content that looks useful.

THIRD PLACE

Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
Southampton
Content serves its readers well.

INVESTIGATIVE/IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch
Red Hook
Claire Greenburger and Jack Whitman
Hours of on-site reporting plus background research went into this documented account of a longstanding public health problem that this publication deserves credit for helping correct.

SECOND PLACE

New York Focus
Brooklyn
Chris Bragg
Lots of detail relevant, non-dramatic imagery relate a sense of tension and conflict taking place in a screwy section of New York.

THIRD PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Olivia Seaman
A sleeper entry, a little account among a fleet of multi-part series. This entry's contextual reporting, built upon a breaking incident, turns into a well-developed account of nursing home neglect.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Photo News
Chester
Bryan Fumagalli
A great example of taking a national story and making it local, the accounts from the federal employees show how people within the bureaucracy reacted to the aggressive measures taken by DOGE. The commentary from perspectives humanize the events that occurred and give readers a better sense of the differing views of federal workers at this critical time.

SECOND PLACE

Park Slope Courier
Brooklyn
Anna Bradley-Smith
A great look into a community group's efforts to preserve a local landmark. Does a great job going into the history of the property, the efforts of community members in obtaining it, and explains why it is important for the community to maintain ownership of this building.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Camille Botello
A bizarre situation which becomes a larger story about development within the community. The article manages to tie this strange group's emails and renderings to the actual development in the community, taking a series of dismissive statements and turning them into a story that remains relevant beyond the novelty of cryptic emails.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Sandra Peddie, Grant Parpan, Shari Einhorn and Nicole Fuller
This extraordinary series exemplifies investigative journalism at its most powerful and responsible. Through exhaustive on-the-ground work, the judges found “Unprotected” to be compelling, horrifying and deeply impactful. This investigation demonstrated journalism's capacity to demand accountability and drive meaningful change.



Writer of the Year, 2025

There were 36 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE:

Ambrose Clancy
Shelter Island Reporter

Ambrose Clancy has been the editor of the *Shelter Island Reporter* since 2012. He is the author of the recently published collection of his journalism for national newspapers and magazines titled “*My Life In Pieces: Writers, Rogues, the Road and The Rock*,” from Brick Tower Press. He is also the author, with the photographer Peter Donahoe, of “*The Night Line: A Memoir of Work*,” and the novel “*Blind Pilot*.”

In 2023 he received top honors from the National Newspaper Association for columns and feature writing.

He was an assistant editor for Times Review Media Group’s *News-Review* and a staff reporter for its former paper, the *North Shore Sun*. He was a staff reporter for the *Southampton Press* and an editor at *Long Island Business News*.

“Outstanding hard news entries, and his column about obituaries was one of the best things I read in this competition.”



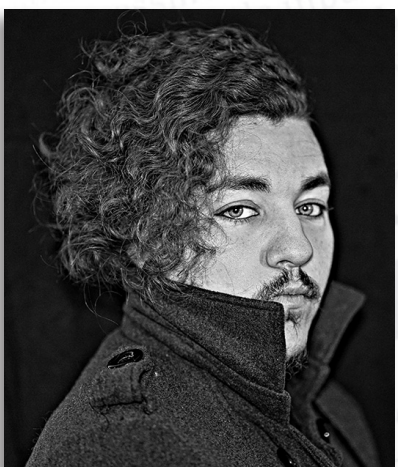
SECOND PLACE:

Michelle Trauring
Southampton Press - Eastern Edition

Michelle Trauring is a features editor and writer based in Colorado, though her editorial home is on the East End of Long Island with The Express News Group. Over the past 10 years, she has pushed remote work to its limits, covering the local Hamptons community from over 20 countries while backpacking across five continents.

When she isn’t writing, Michelle is likely lost in the wilderness with plenty of snacks, daydreaming about her next trip, or giving each of her cats — Shelby, Lincoln and Voodoo — a head rub.

“Michelle’s writing is outstanding, concise and detailed. Her story about the Southampton prom was at the same time heartwarming and heartbreaking.”



THIRD PLACE:

Dean Moses
amNewYork Metro

Dean Moses is the Police Bureau Chief at *amNewYork*. He is a photographer, journalist, and author. His work has appeared in numerous New York based newspapers, including *The Villager*, the *Amsterdam News*, *Spring Creek Sun*, *Ridgewood Times*, *Lefrak City Courier*, *Queens Courier*, and *Canarsie Courier*. He received a photography award from *Sing Tao Daily* and was recognized by the New York Press Association in 2023 as the Photographer of the Year.

His photos were also featured in the *Stonecoast Review* from the University of Maine. In addition to his journalism work, he has had a variety of fiction published, including his novella, “*A Stalled Ox*.”

Despite being born in the United Kingdom, he now considers himself a proud New Yorker where he resides with his wife and cats.

“Dean’s coverage goes beyond the ordinary to tell the stories that matter in the community he covers.”



Excellence Awards

INVESTIGATIVE/IN-DEPTH REPORTING (CONT.)

DIVISION 4

SECOND PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Emilie Munson

This rigorously reported investigation moved well beyond surface-level assessment, uncovering patterns in campaign spending and fundraising that raised serious questions about oversight, accountability and fairness. This work underscores the essential watchdog role of investigative journalism in safeguarding democratic systems and public resources.

THIRD PLACE

Newsday

Melville

Very detailed and well reported. Impactful

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch

Red Hook

Claire Greenburger

Compelling and well-researched. This is a good example of why journalism is still so needed. The human aspect of this situation is explored alongside the scientific data.

FIRST PLACE

New York Focus

Brooklyn

Chris Bragg

Well written and researched. Great depth and scope.

SECOND PLACE

The Overlook News

Saugerties

Noah Eckstein

Good use of background and explanatory material. The story shows initiative on the part of the reporter as well, exposing a public employee who should have never been hired for this position and was a potential danger to the public.

THIRD PLACE

City & State

New York

Annie McDonough

Excellent use of data to make an important point about hiring and understaffing in municipal government.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers

Brooklyn

Emma Grimes

Thorough reporting on a program that can help during a housing crisis. Relevant reader for information

SECOND PLACE

Queens Courier

Flushing

Patrick Stachniak

Well told story and shows all sides to an issue that isn't cut and dry.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record

Rye

Miranda Ferrente

Great job staying on top of a local issue.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Adam Daly

I loved this story. A true local topic with creative writing.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Phillip Pantuso

This is a good, newsy story that is well written. Touched a local and national issue in a really interesting and digestible way.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Ethan Stark-Miller

I love the concept of this story as a non-New Yorker and really enjoyed the writing and storytelling.

EDUCATION STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

New Hyde Park -

Floral Park Herald Courier

Roslyn Heights

Isabella Gallo

Great job by the reporter using public records laws to pry loose a remarkable story of graft and nepotism by the school district superintendent, as well as an apparent violation of state law by the school district. Weaves in quotes from the community well.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current

Cold Spring

Joey Asher

A fabulous lede that pulled me in. Terrific quotes throughout on a very topical subject.

THIRD PLACE

New Hyde Park -

Floral Park Herald Courier

Roslyn Heights

Isabella Gallo

This was a wonderful profile story. When you have such great material with which to work, it makes for a compelling story.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Yorktown News

Mount Kisco

Miranda Ferrante

Great lede, and does a good job explaining a loophole that allows for a superintendent to get reappointed for less salary. Also does a good job balancing that perspective with community skepticism. Straightforward and clear writing.

SECOND PLACE

The Smithtown News

Smithtown

David Ambro

Very detailed, straightforward writeup.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record

Rye

Rosie Newmark

The writing made me want to meet this guy. Just a nice writeup on an interesting leadership approach.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Kathleen Moore

This story connects data with a narrative in a compelling way. It tracks a 15-year trend in a way that someone like me who has not been in the district can understand the chaos of all the turnover.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Emilie Munson

I just found this topic incredibly interesting, and the reporter did a good job balancing both sides of the unique issue.

THIRD PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Julie Zhu

As a data story, it is easy to understand and written clearly to not overwhelm the reader.

BUSINESS, FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC NEWS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

RiverheadLOCAL

Riverhead

Denise Croiletti

So much detail and nuance here on a topic that could have been routine.

SECOND PLACE

New Pine Plains Herald

Pine Plains

Patrick Grego

Nice storytelling here.

THIRD PLACE

The Daily News

Batavia

Mike Pettinella

Interesting look at split between local impact and state strategy.

THIRD PLACE

RiverheadLOCAL

Riverhead

Maria Del Mar Piedrabuena

Well-reported.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Rye Record

Rye

David Hessekiel

Thorough development story filled with local tension. Well-sourced and clearly told.

SECOND PLACE

The Rye Record

Rye

David Hessekiel

This economically written story is packed with voices and concrete details that bring to Main Street the impact of Trump's tariffs. Don't let its brevity fool you: this piece delivers.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers

Brooklyn

Claude Solnik

This well-crafted piece is rich with detail. The deep history is woven in nicely to the relevant story told for today's audience.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Barbara Russo-Lennon

I love the shoe leather here that combines interviews with lots of folks you don't usually see quoted in news articles and melds it with an important question of regulatory fairness. It helps readers quickly understand the rules. It's got useful data and helpful expertise. Reads well. Great story.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Emily Davenport

This story was an absolute riot. I was laughing out loud repeatedly. A nice job of spotlighting a business, finding interesting people and connecting it to a topical issue. A breezy, delightful read.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Shea Vance

A creative way to localize a national story. I would never have guessed about the potential harm to business owners with the end of the "Late Show."

Sports Writer of the Year, 2025

There were 16 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE:

Steven Kearney
The Rye Record

Steven Kearney is a sports writer for the *Rye Record* who covers boys and girls high school soccer, boys basketball and ice hockey, and boys and girls high school lacrosse.

In addition, Kearney (pronounced CAR-ney) is a New York City-based voice actor and long-time resident of Rye, NY.

He and his wife Kristel have 19-year-old twins who are freshmen in college. Originally from San Francisco, Kearney is an avid golfer, swimmer, a lover of Australian Shepherds, and a lifelong fan of high school sports.

“Steven does a great job of bringing you into the story. In his article on a soccer team playing on back-to-back rainy days, he tells us they “laced up their soggy boots.” It’s a great mix of formal and conversational, which I appreciated.”



SECOND PLACE:

Laura Albanese
Newsday

Laura Albanese is the Mets beat writer for *Newsday*. She’s been covering MLB since 2014 after starting at *Newsday* as an intern seven years earlier.

I grew up reading Lisa Olson’s sports columns. She had her photo in the paper, and just that image – a woman’s wryly smirking face sitting above these beautifully written articles – eventually convinced me this gig wasn’t as out of reach as I thought. So, after interning and freelancing and working retail and slinging lattes, I did end up reaching for the thing I actually wanted to do. I hope the stories we tell at *Newsday* can help me pay that forward to someone else.

“I loved the foodie column, so fun and casual, then her next story is a well-researched and clearly written piece on a hugely expensive project next to Citi Field. Her story about how major leaguers spent their first paycheck was such a fun idea.”



THIRD PLACE:

Steven Zaitz
The Village Times Herald

Steven Zaitz has been a writer and a photographer for the *Times Beacon Record* family of newspapers since he moved to Suffolk County in 2019.

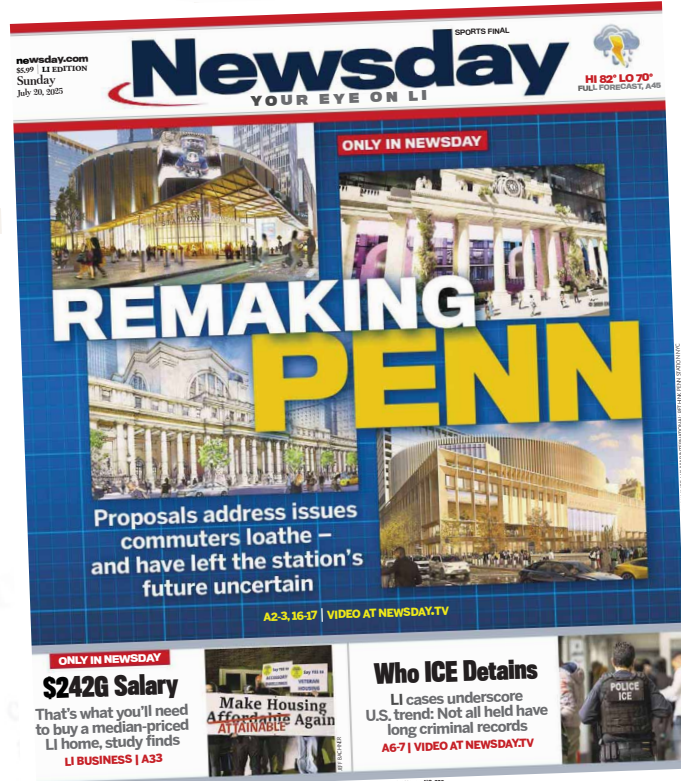
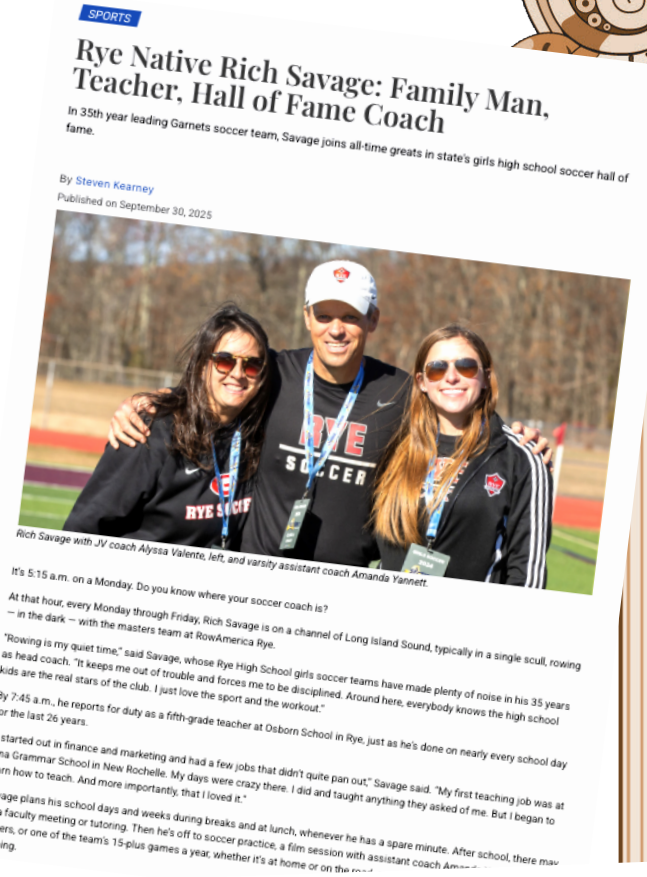
He has covered everything from championship-level high school football, equestrian sports, polar plunges, to holiday craft fairs, local parades and tree lightings — always endeavoring to find the most interesting vantage points in each.

As a boy, he consumed all the local New York papers, as opposed to the school-issued texts, wrote for the high school monthly, and landed the highly-coveted job of public address announcer for football and basketball games as a junior.

He was concurrently the sports editor and a member of photo desk at *The Spectrum*, SUNY Buffalo’s campus paper and many of his college hours in Western New York slipped away processing black-and-white images inside a place we old-timers once called a darkroom.

He lives in Smithtown, NY with his wife Pat and nine-year-old son, Daniel.

“I love a writer who tells it how it is. In a feature on a new football coach, he writes, ‘If Lauri was in search of challenges, he has come to the right place.’ Steven does a nice job of going beyond the story to find interesting angles, and his writing draws you in.”



Excellence Awards

ARTS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

New York Amsterdam News
New York
Marielle Argueza

Brother/sister duo helping share stories told by elders in their community in Harlem. This story made me want to learn more about the project/read more.

SECOND PLACE

Chelsea Community News
New York
Scott Stiffler

In-depth, insider look at a really interesting exhibit highlighting Asian graphic artists. The writer gives each artist the love and dedication they deserve.

THIRD PLACE

The Villager (NYC)
Brooklyn
Bob Krasner

One of my favorite stories yet. Weird, heartwarming, and just overall a very nice read.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Laura Schiller

The story the author dug out of this famous musician humanized him. The tale was compelling, well told and gave context to the greater personality of the subject. Excellent use of quotations to move the story along.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Stephanie G. Meditz

Great use of quotations to move this along and keep it interesting. The theme woven through with the relevance to today was well done.

THIRD PLACE

Brooklyn Downtown Star
Maspeth
Jack Delaney

Great, full circle story. We went somewhere, lived the story and then came back to a relevant action item.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Katherine Kiessling

This article was a vibrant look into a subculture that many don't know about. The quotations were well chosen and placement was impeccable, and each paragraph expertly built on the next. A truly enjoyable read.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly

Compelling from start to finish. While the story stayed on task, it took us on some brilliant sidebars that made the humanity of the situation pop.

THIRD PLACE

Daily Gazette
Schenectady
Thomas Dimopoulos

A fresh take on something widely reported on. Great research and presentation.

ENVIRONMENT STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Explorer
Saranac Lake
Zachary Matson

All of this reporter's entries were strong candidates. The story selection is good, the reporting is strong and well-sourced, and the reporter was judicious about when to be vague and when to be precise, using nice rhythm throughout. This one edges out the win just for being a textbook study-to-story example that was readable and not over-long, and because it's impossible not to love a story about fish that refuse to die.

SECOND PLACE

New York Focus
Brooklyn
Colin Kinniburgh

In a competitive category, the lobbying surrounding packaging legislation was also a competitive story, and New York Focus's Kinniburgh did it best. Each "did not respond" was seamless and objective in tone — but illustrative nonetheless.

THIRD PLACE

Oyster Bay Herald
Garden City
Will Sheeline

I kept reminding myself that this is a reporter's award and not an award for which environmental project was the coolest. And this project was really cool! I've decided not to hold it against the reporter, however, because the reporter has done an excellent job of making me feel invested in these people and this place and their oysters, without getting mawkish or too purple in the prose.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Chronicle (Goshen)
Chester
Becca Tucker

This article was incredibly informative, well-researched, and had a lot of great sources. The information about which hospitals were confirmed to have the antivenom was also a very nice touch. I greatly enjoyed reading the article.

SECOND PLACE

The Photo News
Chester
Jane Primerano

This is a great topic to cover, and a serious problem not just in New York, but all over the country due to climate change. It really boils down a huge climate issue to how it directly affects local communities and ecosystems.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Stephanie G. Meditz

This is a great example of holding government accountable for their actions and does a great job explaining the affects of government action on the environment.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Press & Sun-Bulletin
Binghamton
Riccardo Monico

An article on a fascinating topic! This is a problem that most people probably don't realize is a problem, and a solution that seems like it was desperately needed.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Roger Hannigan Gilson

Most people don't realize this is a problem, but it is an incredibly important topic. This is well-researched and well-reported to bring attention to the dying species of trees

THIRD PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Patrick Time

An important look at how Government action (or inaction) has an affect on real people. Very thorough and well-reported

HEALTH, HEALTH CARE & SCIENCE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

New Pine Plains Herald
Pine Plains
Patrick Grego

Interesting read, valuable reporting, especially digging through material/reports. This issue is in the spotlight because of enterprise reporting through data and for rural health issues, which often miss the spotlight. Important, impactful community reporting.

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Kirstyn Brendlen

This reporting brings a national issue alive through local impact and concerns. The community is well represented here and well informed through this reporting. Good flow and writing as well.

THIRD PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Melissa Whitworth

Interesting read, good writing, and a wonderful series to develop. It does in fact inform the public of pioneering work being done, and what might be possible to address this universal health issue.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Chronicle (Goshen)
Chester
Becca Tucker

Well written, engaging writing, full of personal experiences, science, and helpful information. No snake stereotypes here - respectful and objective. I came away informed happy to have spent time reading this.

SECOND PLACE

TimesLedger
Flushing
Renee DeLorenzo

Clearly s community issue and concern, covered with objective reporting from a variety of sources. I would like to see a bit more, especially from folks - staff and patients - impacted.

THIRD PLACE

Gay City News
Brooklyn
Matt Tracy

A community issue with political and personal impact for the community. The story does a good job of reaching out to seek political views and spotlight medical care facilities and their practices. I would like to see patients represented as well.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly

This is a comprehensive, well constructed piece, involving a multitude of sources and ramifications for a community at risk. Accessible, detailed information, easy to follow. Vital information.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Kathleen Moore

This is a delightful read about an innovative program presented in a well-written narrative. The science is fresh, the story is engaging.

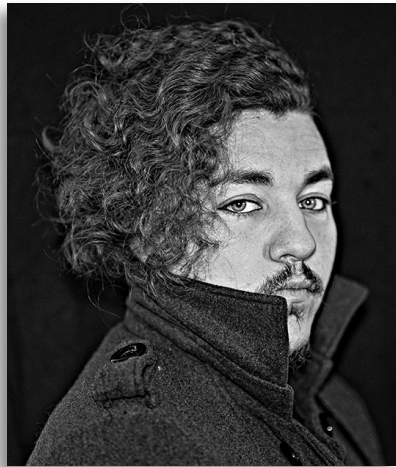
THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly

Interesting way to tell a story, through local voices on social media as well as those in authority. This is certainly of interest to a community which lives in, experiences and sees the risks daily.

Photographer of the Year, 2025

There were 15 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE:

Dean Moses
amNewYork Metro

Dean Moses is the Police Bureau Chief at *amNewYork*. He is a photographer, journalist, and author. His work has appeared in numerous New York based newspapers, including *The Villager*, the *Amsterdam News*, *Spring Creek Sun*, *Ridgewood Times*, *Lefrak City Courier*, *Queens Courier*, and *Canarsie Courier*. He received a photography award from *Sing Tao Daily* and was recognized by the New York Press Association in 2023 as the Photographer of the Year.

His photos were also featured in the *Stonecoast Review* from the University of Maine. In addition to his journalism work, he has had a variety of fiction published, including his novella, "A Stalled Ox."

Despite being born in the United Kingdom, he now considers himself a proud New Yorker where he resides with his wife and cats.

"This photographer isn't afraid to be where the real action is and that is definitely seen in the photos. Some really nice work here that captures the emotion and tension of the scenes."

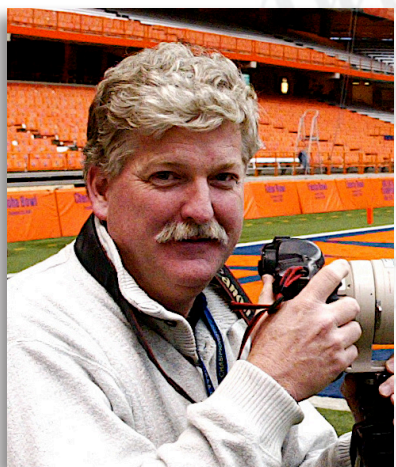


SECOND PLACE:

Casey Martin
The Ithaca Voice

Casey Martin has been a local news photographer for over a decade, first working with *The Ithaca Times* before moving over to *The Ithaca Voice*, elevating our organization's coverage and presentation to unprecedented heights visually. During that time, he's taken photos of just about anything you can imagine: tense City Hall meetings, myriad protests, local sports glory and defeat, joyous festivals and even the local annual rutabaga curl. He does so while fitting his work around his full-time job at a local theater.

"A very strong and complete portfolio. Liked the variation in topics covered along with a good combo of tight images and then letting some breathe."



THIRD PLACE:

Jim MacLean
The Recorder News

Jim MacLean is the sports editor and a staff photographer for the *Recorder* newspaper in Bedford since 2024. He has been a sports editor and photographer for local newspapers in Westchester County for more than 20 years.

A graduate of Fordham University, Jim has won numerous NYPA awards over the years including seven in the Photographer of the Year category and two in the Sportswriter of the Year category.

"Good mix of sports, news and features. Also appreciated the lens choices and the cropping decisions. This photographer went tight when needed but also could set a scene."



Excellence Awards

CRIME/POLICE/COURTS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Kirstyn Brendlen

It's very interesting to see the relationship between the arts and community policing. The article does a good job explaining how the program works and how it's benefiting the police department.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers
Brooklyn
Michael Malaszczyk and Oliver Peterson
The research on the suspect really help to tell ore about this person. The research on Rwanda also helps to add context.

THIRD PLACE

Port Washington News
Mineola
Larissa Fuentes and Amit Ben Bassat
A good approach to a tragic story. The comments from the family really help paint a portrait of who the kid was.

FIRST PLACE

Our Town East Side
Chester
Gail Gregg and Mike Oreskes
Good writing on a national problem localized to the city

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News
Brooklyn
Heather Cassell
Good story that weaves in a first-hand reaction to a specific case with a broader issue affecting the community.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Courier
Flushing
Patrick Stachniak
Very detailed story telling and well written.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses
Good writing on an important topic not just in New York but I think everywhere

SECOND PLACE

Press & Sun-Bulletin
Binghamton
Jillian McCarthy
Good trial coverage in a digestible way.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses
Good storytelling and interview during a sensitive situation. Also good accountability reporting.

ELECTIONS/POLITICS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

New York Focus
Brooklyn
Julia Rock and Chris Bragg
This piece exemplifies exemplary political journalism: rigorously reported, well sourced, and deeply informative. The authors illuminate critical issues of transparency and accountability that are central to the health of the city's democratic process.

SECOND PLACE

Livingston County News
Batavia
Sol Hauser
This story delivers strong, ground-level political reporting by clearly connecting an unlikely local election outcome to a single, galvanizing public policy issue.

THIRD PLACE

The Overlook News
Saugerties
Noah Eckstein
This article underscores the importance of watchdog journalism in holding local officials to account, particularly when public safety and trust are at stake.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Peter C. Mastro Simone
This story offers layers of revelations — a candidate who didn't live in the district in which he ran; a lack of understanding of residency rules; and even worse, a journalist needing a voting group to help expedite official answers — all essential for voters to know.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News
Brooklyn
Matt Tracy
This story offers voters a useful, concise way to understand each mayoral candidate's record and the potential impact each administratin might have during a historic time of tumult for LGBTQ Americans.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Ledger
Maspeth
Mohamed Farghaly
Creativity and innovation aren't traditional angles for political reporting, but they stand out here as essential in a crowded primary, and provide tangible way to think about how each candidate tried to distinguish themselves.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Emilie Munson
This investigation is a standout example of impactful political journalism that exposes serious questions about the integrity of campaign finance practices and the potential exploitation of vulnerable people.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Billy House
This article gives readers a balanced treatment of data, context and potential ethical concerns and enhances public understanding of how lawmakers operate beyond the headlines.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Shea Vance
This article skillfully highlights the growing influence of young and first-time voters and draws on data, expert commentary, and vivid examples from Mamdani's Democratic mayoral primary win.

HISTORICAL STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

RiverheadLOCAL
Riverhead
Alek Lewis and Denise Civiletti
This was both a timely piece and a compelling story. Nicely written and well crafted.

SECOND PLACE

Village Star-Review
Brooklyn
Phyllis Eckhaus
Very interesting story. Well written and interesting read.

THIRD PLACE

Village Star-Review
Brooklyn
Michele Herman
Good information presented in a reader-friendly way.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Ridgewood Times
and Times Newsweekly
Flushing
Patrick Stachniak
Another home run for this publication for its history and public service. Enjoyed this piece slightly more than the previous one. Wish I had millions of dollars to put an end to this madness. Very descriptive through and through.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
David Levine
Loved that lede, wow. This is how you write a historical piece. Great attributions, use of hyperlinks and photos.

THIRD PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Beth Whitehouse
Loved the lede to this story. Never seen something like it before, great hook. My favorite stories are ones like these: long, detailed, yet even word was necessary and added to the big picture of just how many people were affected from a single spot. So nostalgic.

RELIGION STORY

FIRST PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch
Red Hook
Eloise Goldsmith
The story of Knowledge and his journey to faith through his incarceration, shows the true power of one's belief system or religion. The author does an excellent job of helping the reader understand Knowledge's troublesome past, while gaining compassion for his missteps. An interesting, maybe even unlikely friendship, is spelled out in this story between the incarcerated individual and Mary Foster Cadbury, raised in a Quaker farming family. The use of both historical and present day photos help enhance the reader's understanding of both these individuals and how they ended up becoming pen pals as well as friends for decades. This story is easily summed by text in the author's third paragraph: "Theirs is a story of the long, quiet power of sustained human connection and what it can mean inside a criminal justice system typically defined by punishment, not possibility."

SECOND PLACE

Suffolk County News
Patchogue
Connor Patton
Oftentimes, when it comes to stories about faith or religion, such information is delivered by a clergy leader of some kind from behind the pulpit. This story about "Spreading the Gospel through signs," shows how faith/religion can be conveyed through humor. I think that's very important to consider. While central to the lives of many people, faith doesn't always need to be stern. It can be fun and humorous, as shown in this article. Since the early 1990s, Sayville United Methodist Church member Alan Gross has created more than 130 signs spreading the word of God, often through humor. I think that's a pretty awesome faith-based mission.

Excellence Awards

RELIGION STORY (CONT.)

THIRD PLACE

Warwick Advertiser
Chester
Bob Quinn

This was a pretty special story to read. The use of past and current photos make the story even more compelling. The creation of a christening gown made from a World War II parachute, and all of the lives it has touched since July 1947, is remarkable. The number of children to be baptized in this gown, made from the silk parachute, is a true family tradition; one that bridges the past to the present.

BEST DIVERSITY STORY

FIRST PLACE

The Chronicle (Goshen)
Chester
Becca Tucker

An enlightening insight into the difficulties of being in a family of undocumented immigrants at a time of increased enforcement. The military enlistment angle goes into an often underdiscussed aspect of the subjects, especially with its connection to the dream of citizenship and challenges people will put up with to achieve it.

SECOND PLACE

The Post-Star
Glens Falls
Lisa Reider

Great story covering the journey of a trans man coming out to his family and community, as well as discussing how a local LGBTQIA+ community empowers its members.

THIRD PLACE

Suffolk County News
Patchogue
Connor Patton

A neat look into the history of a community tradition rooted in fighting bigotry, with consideration for its changing role from a protest to an annual event.

TECHNOLOGY STORY

FIRST PLACE

New York Focus
Brooklyn
Zachary Groz

In-depth and dogged reporting on the topical and important issue of surveillance that may otherwise not have been brought to light. This piece also clearly explained a complex issue. Very well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Juliet Rotondo

Relatable and well-sourced story that delves into a vital issue of our time from the educators' perspective.

THIRD PLACE

City & State
New York
Annie McDonough

Fun story that takes the reader inside political campaigns and the nuanced issues around the use of AI. Piece includes lots of voices and is well-told.

FEATURE STORY - NEWS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Explorer
Saranac Lake
Tim Rowland

From a futuristic farm, to federal indictments and a president, this story was entertaining and compelling. I also appreciated the reporter's insight of the interactions with such an interesting character.

SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Explorer
Saranac Lake
David Escobar

Engaging and thoughtfully written. Feels close to first place.

THIRD PLACE

New Pine Plains Herald
Pine Plains
Patrick Grego

This one stuck with me. Great voice, felt like it was one step away from something bigger.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Rochester Business Journal
Rochester
Kevin Oklobzija

This story carried a nice balance between history, family connection and an iconic building in the community.

SECOND PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Daniela Rynott and Martin Wilbur

Really well done. Engaging and executed with a clear sense of purpose.

THIRD PLACE

The Palladium Times
Oswego
Lauren Royce

This piece was very easy to connect with. A job well done.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton
Michelle Trauring

This was a well reported, moving story that captured the family's pain and humanity. Well done on sharing their story without exploiting tragedy.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times
Mattituck
Amanda Olsen

Thoroughly reported story you could tell took in depth research and interviews.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Steven Zaitz

Well done!

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Chronicle (Goshen)
Chester
Becca Tucker

So many feelings evoked by this excellent piece.

SECOND PLACE

The Ridgewood Times
and Times Newsweekly
Flushing
Patrick Stachniak

Effective writing, stirred up anger.

THIRD PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Kirstyn Brendlen

One of those stories that you're glad someone thought of writing. This writers has good ideas.

DIVISION 5

FIRST PLACE

The Post-Star
Glens Falls
Alex Portal

Well-written piece that holds the reader's interest throughout. I thought it was well organized. Alex Portal did a nice job of localizing a large issue and bringing readers of his community close to it.

SECOND PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Mayra Kalaora

I really liked the angle Mayra Kalaora took on this story. She did a great job of telling the story of graduation from different perspectives and you could almost hear how proud and excited both the graduates and their parents were.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Jessica Maricevic

I enjoyed how well Jessica Maricevic localized the funding issue. She brought in enough agencies to show how impactful the cuts are to the organizations. It definitely brought attention to how a national issue trickles down to her community.

DIVISION 6

FIRST PLACE

Long Island Press
Flushing
Isabella Reilly

A deeply reported, compassionate narrative blending tragedy, context and accountability, written with clarity, restraint and emotional power throughout, and balance.

SECOND PLACE

Long Island Press
Flushing
Nicole Formisano

Powerful reporting that blends advocacy, context and accountability, transforming personal tragedy into a impactful examination of systemic failure. Beautifully written.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Courier
Flushing
Shane O'Brien

Thorough, immersive reporting that humanizes policy through vivid scenes, strong sourcing and excellent storytelling.

DIVISION 7

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Wendy Liberatore

Vivid storytelling and strong quotes recreate what unfolded during that tragic event. Excellent reporting.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Maria M. Silva

A beautifully written piece that is especially poignant in these past few months. It's nice to know this camp exists to provide migrant kids a place they can feel safe and supported.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly

Strong, detailed interview puts the reader alongside Norma Nazario as she gets the worst news a parent can receive. This story also casts a light on this dangerous "subway surfing" trend.

FEATURE STORY - LIFESTYLE, HUMAN INTEREST OR PERSONALITY PROFILE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

New Pine Plains Herald
Pine Plains
Patrick Grego

During a time when politics so deeply divide at the upper levels of government, it is refreshing to read this profile of a beloved local elected official who listened to and worked for all constituents.

SECOND PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch
Red Hook
Emily Sachar

An unconventional and creative way to report a tragedy that is local to New York: instead of focusing on the pending criminal charges of a sleeping driver who hit and killed a pedestrian, the writer wrote a profile on the short life of the victim, going so far as to travel to her hometown in Vietnam to capture many of the voices of the people who loved her. A way to inject humanity and emotion into what could otherwise be just a "news" story about a crime by combining a post-mortem profile with human interest.

Best Real Estate / Home Section, 2025

FIRST PLACE PORT WASHINGTON NEWS

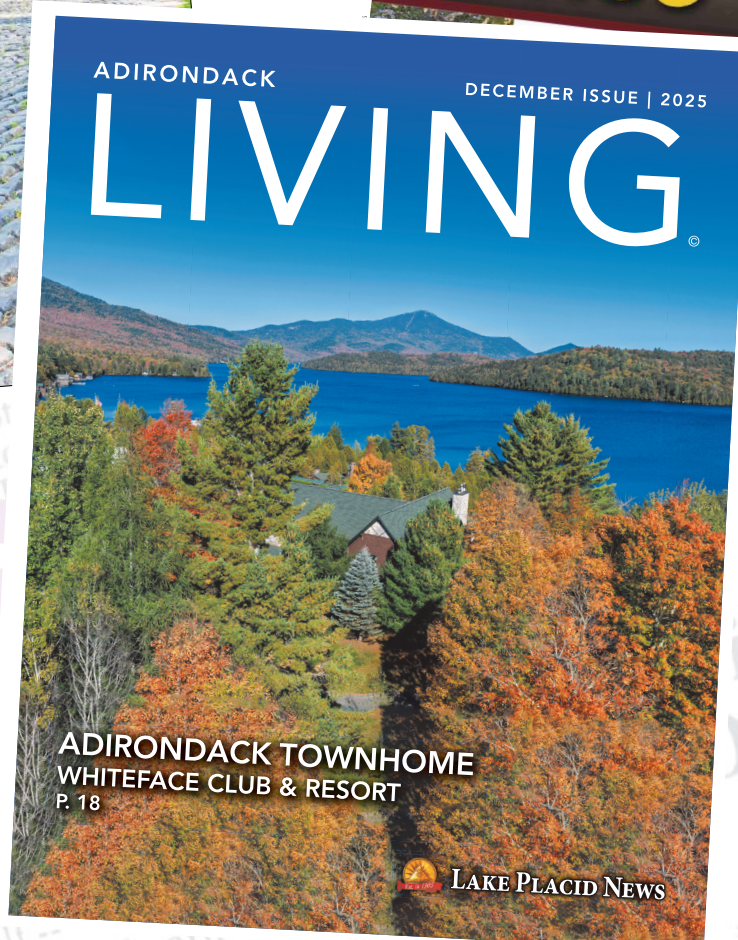
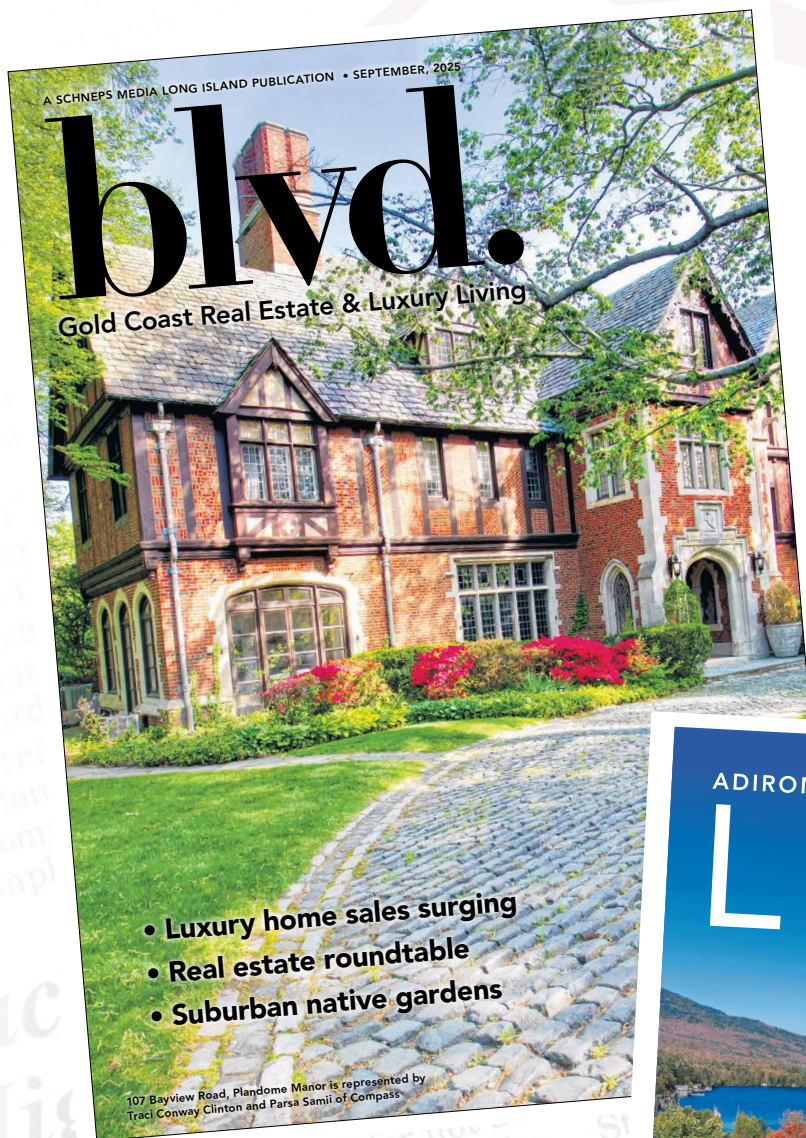
"Excellent use of content to keep readers past just a real estate section, but an overall Real Estate product. Clean and well organized."

SECOND PLACE NEWSDAY

"Nice touch to bring the topic alive instead of just prices and land."

THIRD PLACE ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE

"Beautifully done edition, grabs all the best in a Real Estate Section."



Excellence Awards

FEATURE STORY - LIFESTYLE, HUMAN INTEREST OR PERSONALITY PROFILE (CONT.)

THIRD PLACE

The Examiner
Mount Kisco
Toby Rosewater
There is surprising depth in the combination of architecture, celebrity, and history found within this profile of a long life from "an eager 19-year-old reporting intern." The author's youth alongside his subject's 101 years sets up an intergenerational juxtaposition that elevates and causes the reader further contemplation about the time we find ourselves in and what we long for. The author ends with a quote from his subject, but before that, the author's own last line rings loudly: "... to spend an afternoon with Roland Reisley, who once exchanged handwritten letters with [Frank Lloyd] Wright the way I swap text messages with friends, is to touch a now-vanishing thread that connects us to a more idealistic — if equally flawed — version of our national story."

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

City & State
New York
Sophie Krichevsky
Powerful writing from start to finish. Incredibly compelling storytelling. Wonderful example of a personality profile for sure!

SECOND PLACE

City & State
New York
Holly Pretsky
Spectacular piece. Impressed with how well it was reported and presented. Top-notch journalism on display here.

THIRD PLACE

Southampton Press -
Western Edition
Westhampton Beach
Desirée Keegan
That was terrific! Wonderfully told story about a special person. Beautifully written.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times
Mattituck
Amy Zavatto
A home run. Written very well, with great images.

SECOND PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton
Michelle Trauring
A story that sticks with you. I want to go back there with her next time.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times
Mattituck
Christine Sampson
Really liked this. Interesting and approachable.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Rockaway Times
Rockaway Park
Katie McFadden
A touching and inspiring story about the triumph of the human spirit!

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Kirstyn Brendlen
A beautiful, well-sourced story about something very important in our current times.

THIRD PLACE

The Chronicle (Goshen)
Chester
Becca Tucker
A powerful story about the real people behind the headlines.

DIVISION 5

FIRST PLACE

Queens Ledger
Maspeth
Mohamed Farghaly
I am a huge lover of World's Fair history, and a lot of my time has been spent around Chicago and St. Louis, so this piece really spoke to me. I appreciated the historic information about the structures, and the weaving of the woman's past and her current role in the restoration.

SECOND PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Beth Levine
What a truly small world — It was really great that there were living relatives able to talk about the past with the house, as it would seem an article like this wouldn't be able to include those anecdotes. Hopefully they bring back the festival/feast for the Saint!

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Eileen O'Connor
I really enjoyed that this article featured the story about the business but also the people she is helping, without it feeling overly politically correct. Subjects like these can be tricky, but the writer did an excellent job navigating what some may have a hard time with.

DIVISION 6

FIRST PLACE

Bronx Free Press
New York
Jason Gonzalez
This piece did a fantastic job bringing to light the qualities of a person who does what he does because he loves it and his community. The quotes from former students and family really hit it home that this is an engaged member of the community who will have a lasting impact on people long after he retires.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Stephanie G. Meditz
The Vietnam War is sadly still hardly covered in most public schools. We typically see the rehashing of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, zip past WWI and then spend a ton of time on WWII before all of a sudden school is out for summer. This was a great piece filled with anecdotal information as well as the perseverance of these soldiers once they came home. I really appreciated learning about all of the gentlemen interviewed.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers
Brooklyn
Marc Horowitz
I have never been to Long Island. This piece made me want to visit and explore all of the places listed. It also gave me great inspiration for our own magazine here in Michigan.

DIVISION 7

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Steve Barnes
As a resident of the state of Michigan, I had no idea that buying a bottle of wine at the supermarket was an impossibility. I really appreciated the depth and breadth of this information. We still have our "party stores" here — our version of liquor stores — and they are just as busy as ever despite being able to get every type of booze you can think of at the grocery. This was really great insight into how other states in the union are run, and makes me want to dig deep into the legislation here that had us go from Package Liquor Stores to basic availability almost everywhere.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Erica Marcus
This was more of an interesting piece than I thought it was going to be. The writing had great cadence and the photos were mouthwatering. My boyfriend raises cattle in Oklahoma, so now I'm curious if making his own pastrami is anything he's ever considered.

THIRD PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Rick Marshall
This was a really fun read, and it's nice to see grown men able to have fun with one another and reclaim some of their youth... and pass on the love of a great rock and roll band to their friends and family. The pictures helped tell the story and it's amazing to think about what goes on behind the scenes for some of these more theatrical shows.

SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Citizen
Auburn
Robert Harding
The Citizen's work on this story, while it may be seen as outside the line of what we think of as "spot news," is outstanding. We get five days worth of spot news on this story, starting from the start of the strike itself, going on to assess the impact of the strike on inmates and their families, and finally concluding with the resolution. The photography captures a lot of the emotions around the strike. I found the coverage riveting. Well done!

SECOND PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review
Brooklyn
George Fiala
Terrific work by the photographer George Fiala. He gives us a blow-by-blow account of how the fire unfolded, the efforts to fight it and the impact it had on the building's tenants.

THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press
Southampton
Michael Wright
Solid reporting, weaving in the details of the crash and court proceeding with the real-world impact of the crash on artisans' livelihoods.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Warwick Advertiser
Chester
Becca Tucker
Kudos to Becca Tucker for her work on this story! Becca humanizes the challenges that grandparents face in raising their grandchildren as well as the success stories. This is the type of journalism that gets people to think — and maybe advocate for more support for grandparents that are in these situations. Great work!

SECOND PLACE

The Smithtown News
Smithtown
David Ambro
Photography on this story is top-notch, capturing scenes as firefighters continued to bring the blame under control. Writing not only captured the basic facts but also detailed assistance of other fire departments at the scene.

THIRD PLACE

The Chronicle (Goshen)
Chester
Bryan Fumagalli
Tight writing - a lot of detail in a short amount of space. Well-done!

Best Sports Action Photo, 2025

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1

RON ESPOSITO, SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION

"This is one of those photos that makes you feel as if you were at the event. The spraying sand, concentration and movement of the athletes and spectators watching intently all add up to a story in one frame."

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2

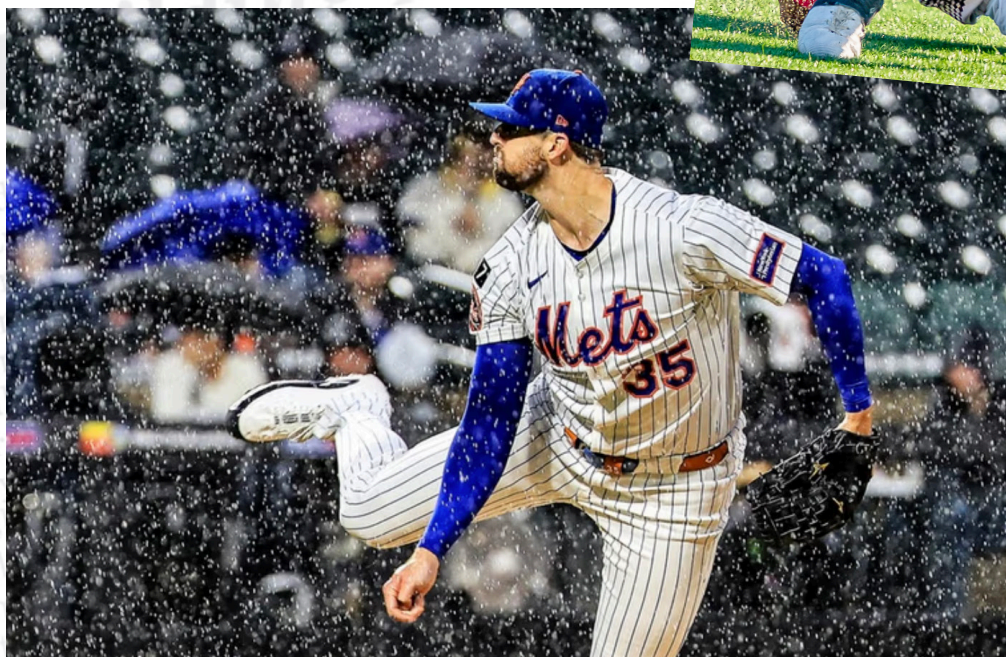
TODD FALASCO, THE NORTHPORT OBSERVER

"Great moment. The crop of the defender No. 5 is a bit aggressive but it does help bring the focus down to the receiver."

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4

THOMAS A. FERRARA, NEWSDAY

"Photos of pitchers can get monotonous to the point where they all sort of look the same. This is very unique. The frozen drops make for a really striking composition."



Excellence Awards

SPOT NEWS COVERAGE (CONT.)

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly, Dean Moses and Shane O'Brien
Solid and comprehensive coverage of ICE's enforcement action on Canal Street from a variety of angles. Photography captured the wide range of emotions from the scene. Given the risks journalists face now when covering any action by ICE, this is outstanding work.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Ethan Stark-Miller and Dean Moses
Coverage puts you right in the center of what happened, between the narrative and the photography. Great detail in depicting how the protest unfolded and subsequent arrest.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses, Emily Davenport, Shea Vance and Robert Pozarycki
Great teamwork by the reporters on this story. Being the first to break the story is one thing but to do it with the level of detail that was captured - good work! Photography caught so many of the emotions, ranging from panic among people near the shooting scene to the somber moment with the mayor and commissioner.

NEWS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Examiner
Mount Kisco
Toby Rosewater
Journalism is at its best when it tells the story of those who cannot. Good work handling this heartbreaking situation. Shining a good light on government is your newspaper's calling.

SECOND PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Jeff Morris
A tough event to cover, but the reporter did it well, keeping to the facts without editorializing. Good work.

THIRD PLACE

The River Reporter
Narrowsburg
Liam Mayo
Good investigative work probably got a potential advertiser mad. But the story, and issues, stand on their own merit.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Port Washington News
Mineola
Isabella Gallo
The plight of good people must be told. This student's story clearly is one that is not uncommon in our world. Shedding a light on government actions is the best use of community journalism. A most worthy winner of this contest.

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press
Southampton
Michael Wright
Interesting story that took some investigative work on the part of the writer. The story took the reader back to the day of the crime.

THIRD PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review
Brooklyn
Eric Newstrom
Great opening line led to an interesting story. Truly, everyone is upset and what is going on.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times
Watertown
Alec Johnson
A compelling, elegantly reported piece that lets detail and restraint tell a haunting story of Egbert J. Dees' unfinished passage.

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Kirstyn Brendlen
Accountability journalism that connects corruption allegations to concrete policy outcomes, while sharply interrogating political power.

THIRD PLACE

The Wave
Maspeth
John Schilling
Clear, well-sourced accountability reporting that methodically lays out timelines, funding gaps and community impact.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Long Island Press
Flushing
Nicole Formisano
This is a heck of a follow-up to what could've been a moment in a press conference that was dismissed and forgotten about. To circle back and get Santos on the record was awesome. Additionally, the story is emotionally told and compelling.

SECOND PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Rosie Newmark and Camille Botello
The details of this case are startling, and it's impressive how the reporter unearthed them.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Rosie Newmark
This is really detailed for a breaking news post about what is essentially a drug arrest. You can tell the reporter went above and beyond finding more than just details shared by police.

DIVISION 5

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly and Manuela Moreyra
Oftentimes, we remember what happened, but it's interesting to get the first-hand story.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly
This story harkens me back to the stereotypical press story about "golden" toilet seats.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Isabella Gallo
Oftentimes attorneys get a bad rap. In this case, prisoners allege that their attorneys have been prevented from speaking with their clients. This is a big deal as everyone should have the right to access counsel.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Ithaca Voice
Ithaca
Judy Lucas and Megan Zerez
This was a fast, high-impact scoop with clear national significance and ongoing consequences. The staff broke a complex story while shorthanded and off-site, using deep sourcing to quickly frame not just the deportation risk, but the larger stakes around campus protest, federal policy, and Cornell's federal funding.

SECOND PLACE

Sea Cliff/Glen Head Herald
Garden City
Luke Feeny and Will Sheeline
The reporters not only identified Robert Ehrlich first as the person behind the attempted power grab, but also landed the first on-the-record, exclusive interview with him and posted it online before state, national, and international outlets followed. Excellent use of community trust and source relationships to turn a chaotic, somewhat bizarre local power struggle into a clear, timely story.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review
Mattituck
Angela Colangelo
This is a delightful, well-reported feature that shows excellent use of video, reels, and audio, and it clearly resonated widely, being picked up by CBS, the New York Post, Smithsonian, AP, and the New York Times. The story itself is rich with local detail and expert sourcing about the bird, why it matters, and how the birding community works. And its local urgency is clear—residents would notice the crowds and lines of cars. An excellent piece of digital storytelling that reminds us that not every breaking news story is a crisis.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses, Robert Pozarycki and Emily Davenport
From strong writing and vivid photos to clear and consistent updates—including email blasts, social posts, and regular updates to the site and story—Emily Davenport, Dean Moses, and Robert Pozarycki met their audience where they were at a time when they needed the local press most. High praise for bringing their best work to a tragic and important story.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly
More than any other form of media, our local news captures and records in history the moments that make us a community. This story could have been covered by the fanciest national news outlets, but they could never have embodied the relief and celebration that came from this teen's release like Adam Daly's story and Lloyd Mitchell's photos did.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers
Brooklyn
Timothy Bolger
A combination of strong storytelling and vivid imagery links a community's urgent moments through time as only a local news outlet can.

BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch
Red Hook
Emily Sachar
Reporting that should make a difference in state law that will protect children. This is why you get into this profession.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times
Watertown
Alex Gault
Outstanding coverage of a prison strike, covered fairly and thoroughly from all angles.

Excellence Awards

BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES (CONT.)

THIRD PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch
Red Hook
Emily Sachar, Jack Whitman and Athan Yanos
Dogged reporting of an issue of community importance. This is what community journalism is about.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

North Country This Week
Potsdam
Jeff Chudzinski and Jimmy Lawton
A well-written series on a topic that is often not reported.

SECOND PLACE

Our Town East Side
Chester
Mike Oreskes, Gail Gregg, Keith J. Kelly and Garrett Owen
A solid series explaining the dangers of e-bikes and the lack of reporting on injuries.

THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News
Smithtown
David Ambro and Tom Allegra
A nicely documented series on political protests.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Brendan J. Lyons
A well written series with depth of coverage, research, and follow up.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Adam Daly
A detailed series that reads well and covers the feedback from the community, developers, and others invested in the potential casinos.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses and Ethan Stark-Miller
A solid series that covers the policing crisis in depth with good interviews and numbers.

HEADLINE WRITING

FIRST PLACE

The Rockaway Times
Rockaway Park
Katie McFadden
McFadden's headlines drew me in and made me want to read these stories.

SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Saranac Lake
Aaron Marbone, Chris Gaige, Tori Marbone, Parker O'Brien and Grace McIntyre
Pretty "punny"!

THIRD PLACE

Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic
Brooklyn
Meaghan McGoldrick O'Neil and Leah Mitch
Well done.

SPORTS FEATURE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

North Salem News
Mount Kisco
Carol Reif
Pickleball and principle: Debate over popular net game continues in North Salem. Classic job of reporting on this almost hard to fathom story. The story lays out the drama, covers both sides of the argument and surprises with some great quotes ("suck it up"). The story works because the reader can tell it wasn't done over the phone. Carol was there – experienced the noise first-hand. Kudos for this type of coverage.

SECOND PLACE

Port Washington News
Mineola
Christy Hinko
Bronx-born Mike Santana returns to New York for TNA Slamiversary Main Event at UBS Arena. I have to admit, the photo drew me in and made me want to register to read about this apparent maniac. What I found was the subject wasn't a maniac at all – but real life, down-to-earth guy who happens to be in the wrestling/entertainment industry. I like how the reporter lets the quotes tell the story ("... man, I think that's the hardest part") and shows the passion of the subject.

THIRD PLACE

PeekskillHerald.com
Peekskill
Jeffrey Merchan
Fuerza Melvin: Peekskill Soccer Captain Recovering After on-field injury". Great lead to the story and effective use of the subheads to keep the story flowing. The subject gets to tell his story with quotes ("I really wanted to ball out this season"), which is rare these days in sports writing. I liked, too, how the writer worked in the donation angle, but came back to the soccer for the closing.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Eileen O'Connor
Well-written story about Victoria including her journey to overcoming physical challenges. It's an inspiring story which the writer took the time telling.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Ledger
Maspeth
Noah Zimmerman
Remembering Paul Kontonis stood out as a well-written piece remembering who Paul was and the impact he had in soccer and the community.

THIRD PLACE

Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic
Brooklyn
Olivia Seaman
Descriptive and very visual. Fun story from the perspective of one of the fans and announcer/media relations on how the championship win was personal to them.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Mark Singelais
The introduction gives a vivid mental picture for the audience. The rest is well written, descriptive and shows the reader "the power of Liam" on the two rival teams.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Emily Davenport
Interesting and in depth in the piece as writer spent 48 hours with bull riders. Also asking a question many probably don't think of – why are we hopping on bulls and why are we watching it?

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Joe Pantorno
Well written story telling the journey of Steven Matz as he returned to the mound in the post season.

SPORTS COVERAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Smithtown News
Smithtown
Anthony Lifrieri and Tom Allegra
Terrific local coverage. The November issue was so strong with coverage of the state playoff football game, the state champion soccer teams and the gymnastics. Photography throughout captured so many emotions. Great work!

SECOND PLACE

Massapequa Post
Amityville
Greatly enjoyed the range of stories covered in this issue, from the longtime Hofstra soccer coach to the Ryder Cup volunteers. Well written and attractive layout, easy to read.

THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press
Southampton
Drew Budd, Desirée Keegan and Sara Mannino
Loved the coverage on Tom Brady opening his card shop as well as the story on the upset victory in the high school baseball tournament. Solid writing and artwork.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Tremendous high school sports section! I loved the variety of sports that were covered, the art work was incredible. Loved the inclusion of standings and box scores. Great feature on the Floral Park team honoring a child battling cancer.

SECOND PLACE

Daily Gazette
Schenectady
Drew Wemple
Drew Wemple's work on this story is outstanding. He does a terrific job of covering the issues that led to the officials taking the steps they did, the real-world impact on the student-athletes that were affected by the action, and finally the resolution that ended the dispute. Top notch work!

THIRD PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Solid work on both of the sections. Loved the story on the transgender athlete. Puts a human face on one of the biggest hot-button issues in sports right now. The horse-racing coverage reflects how big a deal the sport is in that region. Great photography!

BEST NEWS OBITUARIES

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Saranac Lake
Aaron Marbone, Chris Gaige and Grace McIntyre
Just outstanding, compelling obituaries that reflect both lives well lived as well as the communities in which they lived. Writing was beautiful as well.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News
Brooklyn
Andy Humm
In a very competitive field, this obituary stood out by deftly telling the story of both a person and a movement.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Daniel Dunaief
When a monumental but controversial figures dies, a full and accurate obituary is always a challenge. Kudos for an excellent obituary that covered all the bases.

Best Special Section Cover, 2025

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1

JEFFREY NEGRIN, EAST MEADOW HERALD

“The layout is clean and bold. Good use of the isolated subjects placed center frame and the text is well balanced. Overall solid.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2

MARCIA THOMPSON, NEWSDAY

“Entry had the cleanest layout. Clear defined text to convey the internal content. Colors were given good contrast to the background image, which was placed with good balance to the layout as a whole. Overall, well balanced.”



Excellence Awards

BEST NEWS OBITUARIES (CONT.)

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Steve Barnes

Sometimes the best obituaries, even nearly perfect ones like this one, are of people who have lived ordinary lives that impact their community. Spectacular piece of writing.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Barbara Russo-Lennon

Smart writing full of fascinating information made for an extraordinary obituary.

THIRD PLACE

Newsday

Melville

Robert Brodsky

This obituary goes to another level by putting Carolyn McCarthy's life into context in a way that both humanizes her work and teaches us about our past.

EDITORIALS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Explorer

Saranac Lake

Tracy Ormsbee

The Adirondack Explorer's bold editorials frame problems rooted in the everyday, from watching a mountain bike race to using salt to keep roads safe. Moreover, the Explorer goes further to explore solutions, which creates a potentially tangible benefit to readers.

SECOND PLACE

Southampton Press -

Eastern Edition

Southampton

In a moment when a news organization's editorial voice could be used constantly to argue for democracy, decency and understanding, the Southampton Press gives readers reason to appreciate a local public servant with a case for gratitude, spotlighting a public servant and the problem he is trying to solve.

THIRD PLACE

Nassau Herald

Garden City

Jeffrey Bessen, Jim Harmon and Zachary Richner

Three editorials delve into some of the troubling dangers of our time — unaddressed impacts of long covid; Meta abandoning moderators and the implications on civility and democracy; and harshness of the housing crisis. All are told with perspective and expertise.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Robert Pozarycki

This drumbeat of editorials shows dismaying gaps in pay and staffing challenges and what's at stake. The pieces are well-timed for a mayoral election and a new administration.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Jay Jochnowitz

This strong collection of editorials advocates for vulnerable residents who have become targets, democracy and taxpayers.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Robert Pozarycki

Bold and effective editorials that demonstrate abuses of power and urge action.

BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Southampton Press -

Eastern Edition

Southampton

Tom Clavin

Compelling stories. This columnist stood out among many worthy entries.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current

Cold Spring

Brian PJ Cronin

An outdoors/science column that brings in politics as a matter of fact.

THIRD PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter

Mattituck

Nancy Green

A well-written, well-reasoned column on community topics.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Chris Churchill

As a reader, I'd search out this column every time.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers

Brooklyn

Dan Rattiner

The lawsuit memory is especially well told.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record

Rye

Lisa Dominici

Important topics and a good public service.

FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Southampton Press -

Western Edition

Westhampton Beach

Dana Shaw

I love the smile on the girl's face as she looks up, implying a signifier that this child will carry tradition into the next generation.

SECOND PLACE

Southampton Press -

Western Edition

Westhampton Beach

Dana Shaw

Sharp photo from a good angle capturing the moment of joy with the woman's big smile. Also, the name of that groundhog is pretty spectacular.

THIRD PLACE

The Overlook News

Saugerties

Roy Gumpel

This is unique, fun shot. The magenta smoke appealed to me, and the man's face and the pumpkin is dramatically lit. It makes a viewer want to learn more.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Rockaway Times

Rockaway Park

Katie McFadden

This photo made me laugh. The movement that is caught - especially the beard, the red against the brown background, and the egg nog held high. I kept going back to this photo. It captured the moment, told a story, and I wanted to know more. In this category - it is more than just a "perfect" picture. It has to be the "perfect" picture for a newspaper reader. It must tell a story, it must be news worth, it must be genuine, and it must still have technical quality. Great job capturing this event.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle

Glendale

For capturing the moment in time, the emotion, the feeling, how the person felt. This captured it all. This picture by just looking at it told a story. Any reader would stop at the page and read more just to find out why there was so much emotion. This photo for a "feature photo" in a newspaper is relevant, authentic, and timely, and newsworthy. Very nice job.

THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News

Smithtown

Martin Stone

Picture "Kits pounce on Mom" is the winner for all the pictures I could judge. It is technically beautiful, the composition is correct, it is polished. Visually it is strong. But for a newspaper "feature photo" it needs to tell a story "in the moment", be newsworthy, and impactful. Beautiful picture.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro

Brooklyn

Dean Moses

These are some powerful images of people in very vulnerable situations. The photographer has submitted several examples of these individuals as they would act normally. None of these appear to be staged, and that adds to the impact level of these images. They are heartbreaking, yet powerful reminders that help is greatly needed for our most vulnerable populations.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Lori Van Buren

Oftentimes, children and their adventures make for some fun photos, and right here is an example of how photography of our engaged, local youth can be very fun. The angle in which the photographer managed to capture this image allows the reader to see both the fossil being examined, and the children's use of the magnifying glasses. It's a fun and interesting perspective all made possible because of the photographer's angle for capturing this photo.

THIRD PLACE

Times Union

Albany

Lori Van Buren

It is pretty interesting how once the winter weather starts to dwindle, and nicer temperatures start to creep in, that people will trek outdoors. We are tired of being cooped up indoors! While I've seen many people enjoy the warming temperatures by pushing their child's stroller around the neighborhood, I can't say that I've seen that happen while the parent is riding a one-wheeler. That's pretty cool. Luckily for us, as readers/viewers, the photographer was in the right place at the right time.

SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Southampton Press -

Western Edition

Westhampton Beach

Ron Esposito

This is one of those photos that makes you feel as if you were at the event. The spraying sand, concentration and movement of the athletes and spectators watching intently all add up to a story in one frame.

SECOND PLACE

The Times of Smithtown Township

Setauket

Steven Zaitz

This category had some fun celebration shots but this one was the best.

Best Art Photo, 2025

FIRST PLACE

ROB CUMMINGS, THE RECORDER NEWS

"Excellent photo! The subject jumps out at you and is well composed."

SECOND PLACE

ED KANZE, THE RECORDER NEWS

"This is an excellent photo! The fox is striking."

THIRD PLACE

ROY GUMPEL, THE OVER NEWS

"This is a great montone photo!"



Excellence Awards

SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

(CONT.)

THIRD PLACE

The Citizen
Auburn
Kevin Rivoli

There were many entries worthy of placement in this category but this crash landing was too good to pass up.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Northport Observer
Smithtown
Todd Falasco

Great moment. The crop of the defender No. 5 is a bit aggressive but it does help bring the focus down to the receiver.

SECOND PLACE

The Northport Observer
Smithtown
Todd Falasco

Soccer is all about patience. The photographer's patience paid off here.

THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News
Smithtown
Peggy Gallery

Love the fast shutter on this. Nice facial expression as well.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Thomas A. Ferrara

Photos of pitchers can get monotonous to the point where they all sort of look the same. This is very unique. The frozen drops make for a really striking composition.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Jim Franco

The drama is undeniable. The bull coming straight at the camera, its eyes sharp and staring straight ahead. And the spittle adds a really cool graphic element.

THIRD PLACE

The Post-Star
Glens Falls
Pete Tobey

Look at that lighting. Cool moment and composition.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Reporter
Delhi
Benjamin Patton

A good moment full of energy, emotion and celebration. The framing is very nice.

SECOND PLACE

Akron Bugle
Akron
Shaun Finucane

Good emotion, and I like being able to see both of their faces. Framing is good too.

THIRD PLACE

The Times of Huntington
Setauket
Steven Zaitz

Very good emotion. Framing is good.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
J. Conrad Williams Jr.

Great job freezing the action. Freezing it in the moment, as well as the framing, takes this above a normal action/celebration photo.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Jim Franco

I like the emotion and energy of this photo, though the player on the right makes the frame a little too busy.

THIRD PLACE

Newsday
Melville
J. Conrad Williams Jr.

A funny, humorous moment following loss on the sidelines.

ART PHOTO

FIRST PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Rob Cummings

Excellent photo! The subject jumps out at you and is well composed.

SECOND PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ed Kanze

This is an excellent photo! The fox is striking.

THIRD PLACE

The Overlook News
Saugerties
Roy Gumpel

This is a great montone photo!

PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Ross Corsair

Beautiful photos showcasing the places, people and culture of Vietnam.

SECOND PLACE

Clarence Bee
Williamsville
Doug Kohler and Tracey Morgan

A great variety of photos showing the range activities, guests, and emotion at the Labor Day Fair

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Ross Corsair

Does a great job capturing the face, emotion and activities of the fishing derby

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Smithtown News
Smithtown
Anthony Lifrieri

Great close ups, clear photos, and variety of action.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Alejandra Villa Loarca

Great colors, artistry and documentation.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle
Glendale
Michael Shain

Great variety of activities shown in photos.

SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Rockaway Times
Rockaway Park
Krzysztof Kosciwicz

I love this photo. The fact that you can make out the flippers on the person dangling from the helicopter tells you it's a water rescue, even though the water isn't in the shot.

SECOND PLACE

The Smithtown News
Smithtown
Joseph Sperber

As a fire photographer myself, I really appreciate the variety of the scenes captured here, and the appropriate use of settings to show the smoke and flames well.

THIRD PLACE

The Times of Smithtown Township
Setauket
Steven Zaitz

Nice shots. Cool event to cover. A mix of candid and posed, plus a variety of subjects, make for a good photo compilation. It's important to document events like this that say something about a moment in the present that may looked back on as part of history down the line.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Will Waldron

Evenly focused with excellent vibrance, contrast, image quality, scene, composition. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses

What tension. Emotions high. Viewpoints appropriate. The one with the woman in navy with her arm flung out in front of others in front of the Chinese food restaurant is stunning.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses

Wild. What a moment. Look at all those faces.

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION/ EDITORIAL CARTOON

FIRST PLACE

City & State
New York
Alex Law and Andrew Horton

A skillful blend of the painting background with the digitally altered face. The overall resulting layout is striking and attractive.

SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter
Narrowsburg
Amanda Reed and Liam Mayo

This is a fun and interesting exercise to encourage the reader to engage with the area. Recognition should be given to the time and effort given to faithfully hand draw each of the featured attractions.

THIRD PLACE

City & State
New York
Kathleen Fu

This is a busy, but cleanly organized layout. The bespoke illustrations clearly convey their meaning to the accompanying text point. It's interesting to look at while absorbing the overall message.

2025 STUART C. DORMAN AWARD FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

The Rye Record and amNewYork Metro

The Rye Record earned a total of 180 points in the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The publication secured multiple top honors, including first-place awards, along with several second- and third-place finishes, contributing to its recognition for the Stuart C. Dorman Award.

The Rye Record also excelled in the Business, Financial & Economic News Story category with a first and second place win. Steven Kerney was named Sports Writer of the Year and received additional recognition for sports feature writing.

First-place honors included Arts Story, Sports Feature, and Best Newsletter. Additional awards were earned for Technology Story, News Story, and Best Column.

Judges noted that the paper delivers a complete editorial package, highlighting strong headlines, compelling design, and consistently high-quality editing.

amNewYork Metro earned a total of 400 points in the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The publication secured multiple top honors, including first-place awards, along with several second- and third-place finishes, contributing to its recognition for the Stuart C. Dorman Award.

amNewYork Metro also excelled in the Best Front Page, winning first place in Division 2. Dean Moses won Photographer of the Year and received additional recognition for photography.

First-place honors included Local Government Story, Crime/Police/Courts Story, and Spot News Coverage. Additional awards were earned for Online Breaking News, Feature Story-News, and Health, Health Care & Science Story.

Judges praised the publication for its authoritative voice and consistency across coverage, noting its ability to move seamlessly from fast-paced breaking news to more in-depth enterprise reporting.

2025 JOHN EVANS AWARD FOR ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

The Recorder News and Newsday

The Recorder News earned 90 total points, including strong performance in advertising and editorial categories at the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The publication received multiple first-place awards, as well as several second- and third-place finishes.

The Recorder News collected multiple advertising awards, including first place Best Special Section Advertising and Best House Ad/Ad Campaign, and second place Best Small Space Ad.

Judges praised the publication for its clean, eye-catching design and ability to create ads that feel both visually engaging and effective in delivering clear messaging.

Newsday earned 80 total points, including strong performance in advertising at the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The publication received multiple first-place awards, as well as several second- and third-place finishes.

Newsday collected multiple advertising awards, including first place for Best Overall Design and Innovative Ad Project, and second place for Best Special Section Ad.

Judges praised the publication for its bold, forward-thinking approach to advertising, blending strong visuals with innovative concepts.

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 ten-year stint as vice-president of McGraw-Hill Book Co.

1990 - The Riverdale Press
1991 - The Riverdale Press
1992 - The Riverdale Press
1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1994 - The Riverdale Press
1995 - The Cuba Patriot
1996 - The Record-Review
1997 - The Record-Review
1998 - The Record-Review
1999 - The Record-Review
2000 - The Sag Harbor Express
2001 - The Villager (NYC)
2002 - The Record-Review
2003 - The Sag Harbor Express
2004 - The Villager (NYC)
2005 - The Villager (NYC)
2006 - The North Shore Sun
2007 - The Riverdale Press

2008 - The North Shore Sun
2009 - The Suffolk Times
2010 - Long Island Press
2011 - The Sag Harbor Express
2012 - Long Island Press
2013 - The News-Review
2014 - The Suffolk Times
2015 - The Sag Harbor Express
2016 - The Sag Harbor Express
2017 - The Sag Harbor Express
2018 - The Suffolk Times
2019 - The Independent
2020 - Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
2021 - The Sag Harbor Express
2022 - Times Union
2023 - Times Union and Highlands Current
2024 - Times Union
2025 - The Rye Record and amNewYork Metro



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.



1991 - East Hampton Star
1992 - The Riverdale Press
1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1994 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1995 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1996 - The Record-Review
1997 - The Record-Review
1998 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
1999 - The Record-Review
2000 - The Village Times
2001 - The Record-Review
2002 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
2003 - The Record-Review
2004 - The Scarsdale Inquirer
2005 - The Scarsdale Inquirer

2006 - Southampton Press - Eastern Edition
2007 - The River Reporter
2008 - The East Hampton Press
2009 - The Suffolk Times
2010 - Nassau Herald
2011 - The Village Times Herald
2012 - The Record-Review
2013 - TIE — The Record-Review and The Epoch Times
2014 - The Epoch Times
2015 - Dan's Papers
2016 - The Sag Harbor Express
2017 - Dan's Papers
2018 - Dan's Papers
2019 - TIE — Dan's Papers and The Post-Standard
2020 - The Post-Standard
2021 - The Post-Standard
2022 - The Post-Standard
2023 - Dan's Papers
2024 - East Hampton Press
2025 - The Recorder News and Newsday

Excellence Awards

BEST SPECIAL SECTION COVER

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

East Meadow Herald
Garden City
Jeffrey Negrin

The layout is clean and bold. Good use of the isolated subjects placed center frame and the text is well balanced. Overall solid.

SECOND PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald
Garden City
Jeffrey Negrin

The mostly monotone color scheme is well complimented to the lineart doodle graphic. The lightness of the graphic placed center frame is well balanced with the heaviness of the text at both the top and bottom of the layout.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Beth Heller Mason

The layout and coloring invokes a calming tone, appropriate for the content. It was a good choice to include a cardinal for a pop of color in otherwise muted tones.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Marcia Thompson

Entry had the cleanest layout. Clear defined text to convey the internal content. Colors were given good contrast to the background image, which was placed with good balance to the layout as a whole. Overall, well balanced.

SECOND PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Heidi Sutton

The layout had a bold central focus image, isolated against the plain background. Text clearly conveyed the internal contents on the publication. The image could have been touched up however, to really make the colors pop and be more vibrant.

THIRD PLACE

Amherst Bee
Williamsville
Maria Sciortino

This entry should be recognized for the effort that was applied to create something more interesting than just a cropped photo and a headline.

BEST MAGAZINE COVER

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

City & State
New York
Andrew Horton and staff

This is the strongest cover of all the entries. The use of black and white photography has greater power than the color covers. The other two covers are good but they don't have the impact of the photo of Adrienne Adams. Excellent.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times
Mattituck

The best cover for this entry was the race cars. It offered energy that engaged the reader.

THIRD PLACE

Fire Island News
West Hempstead
Leah Mitch, Diane Keil and Victoria Schneps

The artwork on this cover was the best of the artwork submitted on these covers. It had a nice feeling to it.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Capital Region Living Magazine
Saratoga Spring
Kathleen Gates

This was the most dynamic magazine cover, with good photography and a focus on faces. The best was Dylan Davis.

SECOND PLACE

Sag Harbor Express
Southampton
Dana Shaw and Bryan Boyhan

This colorful magazine had a happy, lively energy. Nice.

THIRD PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton

Cailin Riley and Bryan Boyhan
It's very colorful and grabs your attention. Nicely done.

SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS - NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ann Marie Rezen, John Turiano and Kathy Potter

Wow, this is visually very very appealing and very well done. Impressive!! So organized and easy to follow.

SECOND PLACE

Roslyn News Times
Roslyn Heights
Cathy Bongiorno
Well done, extremely comprehensive. Visually appealing.

THIRD PLACE

Nassau Herald
Garden City
Tony Bellissimo and Jeffrey Negrin
Very well organized, and comprehensive. Visually appealing and something for everyone who likes Lacrosse.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton

This entire magazine is stunning. The styles from page to page differ, yet the whole thing feels not only high end but very cohesive. Even the ads all seem to fit perfectly with the voice of the piece. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic
Brooklyn

This is very hands-on, colorful and engaging. You can find what you want to do, and even the ads feel like content in this piece. Makes me want to go to Coney Island.

THIRD PLACE

Port Washington News
Mineola

Cathy Bongiorno and Christy Hinko
This is an easy to read, aspirational and informational piece. I can see myself keeping this to reference design, style and other info. Well done!

SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS - GLOSSY

DIVISION 1

First Place
Newsday
Melville
Michelle Kaszycki, Tracy M. Brown, Royston Wilson and Frank Czuchan
Outstanding design and concise, witty writing guide you through this captivating review of the year. An excellent section.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Love this concept. Many newspapers publish a "best of" section, but rarely are they as fun to read and look at as their piece. Thoroughly enjoyed this special section!

THIRD PLACE

Southampton Press-Eastern Edition
Southampton
Gorgeous design, interesting content. This was a fun read that provides a sense of time and place and the character of the community. Loved it!

BEST REAL ESTATE/HOME SECTION

FIRST PLACE

Port Washington News
Mineola
Cathy Bongiorno and Christy Hinko
Excellent use of content to keep readers past just a real estate section, but an overall Real Estate product. Clean and well organized.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Nice touch to bring the topic alive instead of just prices and land.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Saranac Lake
Susan Moore, Carol Swirsky, Tori Marbone, Chris Gaige and Parker O'Brien
Beautifully done edition, grabs all the best in a Real Estate Section.

BEST SPECIAL SECTION - ADVERTISING

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ann Marie Rezen, Kathy Potter, Francesca Lynch and Paul Cardi
Attractive front page with full color, captivating photo and great layout. The balance of editorial and advertising is enjoyable for the reader. The local stories vs canned copy makes it interesting to read which support the advertisers who supported the special section. Very nicely done!

SECOND PLACE

Nassau Herald
Garden City
Rhonda Glickman, Karen Bloom and Jeffrey Negrin
An eye-catching and meaningful special section. The editorial is local, informative and well written. The ads complement the section and align with the section's intent.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Lauren Cook and Pierce Strudler
Attractive, clean layout on front page and throughout. The balance of local interest stories and aligned advertising work well.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Nannette Fevola, James Rosenfeld, Donna Saladino and Marcia Thompson
A unique and wonderful collection of local articles complemented by advertising that fits the topics. Nicely put together and balanced with editorial and advertising.

Best Magazine Cover, 2025

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1

CITY & STATE

“This is the strongest cover of all the entries. The use of black and white photography has greater power than the color covers. The other two covers are good but they don’t have the impact of the photo of Adrienne Adams. Excellent.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2

CAPITAL REGION LIVING MAGAZINE

“This was the most dynamic magazine cover, with good photography and a focus on faces. The best was Dylan Davis.”



Excellence Awards

BEST SPECIAL SECTION - ADVERTISING (CONT.)

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Nannette Fevola, James Rosenfeld, Donna Saladino and Janine McQuillan
A tough topic that needs to be talked about. Attractive layout with help articles and advertising that makes sense for the special section. Nicely done.

THIRD PLACE

Granville Sentinel
Granville
So fun! I couldn't help but award this fun, colorful piece featuring children's art. I love that the advertisers support the kids' art. Well done.

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Beth Heller Mason and Sharon Nicholson
Great visual piece

SECOND PLACE

The Katonah-Lewisboro Times
Mount Kisco
Tabitha Pearson Marshall
I really like these ads.

THIRD PLACE

The Katonah-Lewisboro Times
Mount Kisco
Tabitha Pearson Marshall
Beautiful ad!

BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Long Island Advance
Patchogue
Andrew Ingenito
Feels polished, warm. Stays on brand with color scheme. Clean layout and consistent branding. Good use of scale in imagery and typography.

SECOND PLACE

Rivertowns Dispatch, The
Dobbs Ferry
Christy Knell
Exceptionally strong layout for its sparcity of content. A definite sense of clarity behind the design. Works on multiple levels and well executed.

THIRD PLACE

Long Island Advance
Patchogue
Andrew Ingenito
Eye catching use of color and scale. Nice touch using an exaggerated "A" to give structure to the layout. Ties in nicely with the sense of being strong, reliable.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

North Country This Week
Potsdam
John Basham, Debbie Morgan and Cathy Whalen
This ad masterfully integrates creative typography — the overlapping script "Waddington" with bold "2025 Concert Series" — into a cohesive design that immediately commands attention on the page. The authentic photo collage brings the event experience to life while maintaining clear information hierarchy, creating both emotional impact and functional effectiveness that would stand out in any newspaper environment.

SECOND PLACE

The Garden City News
Garden City
Debbie Velsmid and Griffin Lord
The handwritten typography and compelling tagline "Anyone can be a hero... but it takes someone special to volunteer" create memorable emotional impact, while the diverse firefighter photo grid delivers authentic human connection despite a more straightforward layout approach.

THIRD PLACE

The Tide of Manorville
& the Moriches
Patchogue
Andrew Ingenito
This ad excels at cohesive beach-themed branding with palm silhouettes and gradient skies that reinforce the "Every day's a beach day" message, while the clean layout and appetizing photography effectively drive customer action despite taking a more conventional design approach.

BEST SMALL SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Port Washington News
Mineola
This is simply a beautiful ad. Very keeping within a theme. A good call to action. The spacing is very nice and the colors work very well together. Very nice ad! Congratulations

SECOND PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Kathy Potter and Francesca Lynch
This is a beautiful ad. The spacing is really nice and the text is very readable, and I myself learned about the wines. Very clean and elegant. Great job!

THIRD PLACE

Long Island Advance
Patchogue
Andrew Ingenito
This is a really great ad. I love the frozen dollar bill. The colors work well with this ad. There is a call to action. The text is easy on the eyes and I had no problem discerning what this business provides. Great job

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Beth Heller Mason
I really enjoyed this ad. Loved the background which was somehow not too much. This ad tells exactly what type of food and atmosphere to expect. The logo is clean. Very nice ad. Good Job and Congratulations!

SECOND PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Sharon Nicholson
This is a gorgeous ad. Simple and elegant. There is a clear call to action. The text is centered nicely and easy to read. The images are clear. Great job and Congratulations.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald
Setauket
Beth Heller Mason and Sharon Nicholson
This ad really popped off the page for me. The bold Pasta Pasta was clear and easy to read. The colors are nice. You have a clear expectation of what type of business this is and the atmosphere to expect. Nice job and congratulations!

BEST MULTI - ADVERTISER PAGES

FIRST PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton
Overall very strong piece. Visually interesting and diverse enough to keep the readers interest over several pages. Bold colors and professional-feeling typography. Varied use of scale mixed with pathed objects, angled photos keeps each page from feeling static. Excellent work.

SECOND PLACE

East Meadow Herald
Garden City
Ellen Reynolds and Jeffrey Negrin
This piece does a nice job of capturing the spirit of this campaign and community. Combining the multiple advertisers into a harmonious layout. A subtle mix of patterns and color makes a strong impression. Well done.

THIRD PLACE

East Meadow Herald
Garden City
Ellen Reynolds and Jeffrey Negrin
A fun piece that visually captures the reader while being based on a strong concept that is a service to the community. The art and typography are appropriate for the theme and lend themselves to the overall mood of the piece. Nice job

BEST SALES PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers
Brooklyn
Brienne Doskoz and Stephanie Bitis
Beautifully produced and the media kit certainly knows its audience. First class presentation, well-organized (especially considering the multiple components) and the pricing allows for any size business to participate. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Lauren Cook and Pierce Strudler
The Highlands Current's Advertising Media Kit was well organized, easy to understand and very client friendly.

THIRD PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ann Marie Rezen and Helene Kopal
One can't help but pull for every community publication as it seeks non-traditional revenue streams in these challenging times. The donation requests were clear, compelling and the entire campaign clearly stated the mission. Congrats on obtaining the partnership with NewsMatch and hopefully the community showed up for The Recorder and the goal was achieved.

BEST HOUSE AD/AD CAMPAIGN

FIRST PLACE

The Recorder News
Katonah
Ann Marie Rezen
These ads appear in a widely read section. They use community photos and a message that builds from November to December. The design looks professional with a clean layout. It lists specific numbers, like the \$50,000 goal and matching details. Offers to "double your impact" push for action. The text thanks current donors and speaks to new ones. It presents The Recorder as a public necessity, not just a media outlet.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers
Brooklyn
Sophia Lee, Emma Aquino and Sara Pellegrino
Campaign is well thought out, design is consistent, clean and engaging. Excellent work.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current
Cold Spring
Pierce Strudler and Lauren Cook
This full-page appeal tracks progress visually. A goal bar displays "19 days left" and builds urgency. It targets two reachable goals: a \$75,000 match and 50 new members. A real member testimonial with a photo adds trust. The text frames year-end donations as a holiday choice that celebrates community.

Best Graphic Illustration / Editorial Cartoon 2025

FIRST PLACE

ALEX LAW AND ANDREW HORTON, CITY & STATE

"A skillful blend of the painting background with the digitally altered face.
The overall resulting layout is striking and attractive."

SECOND PLACE

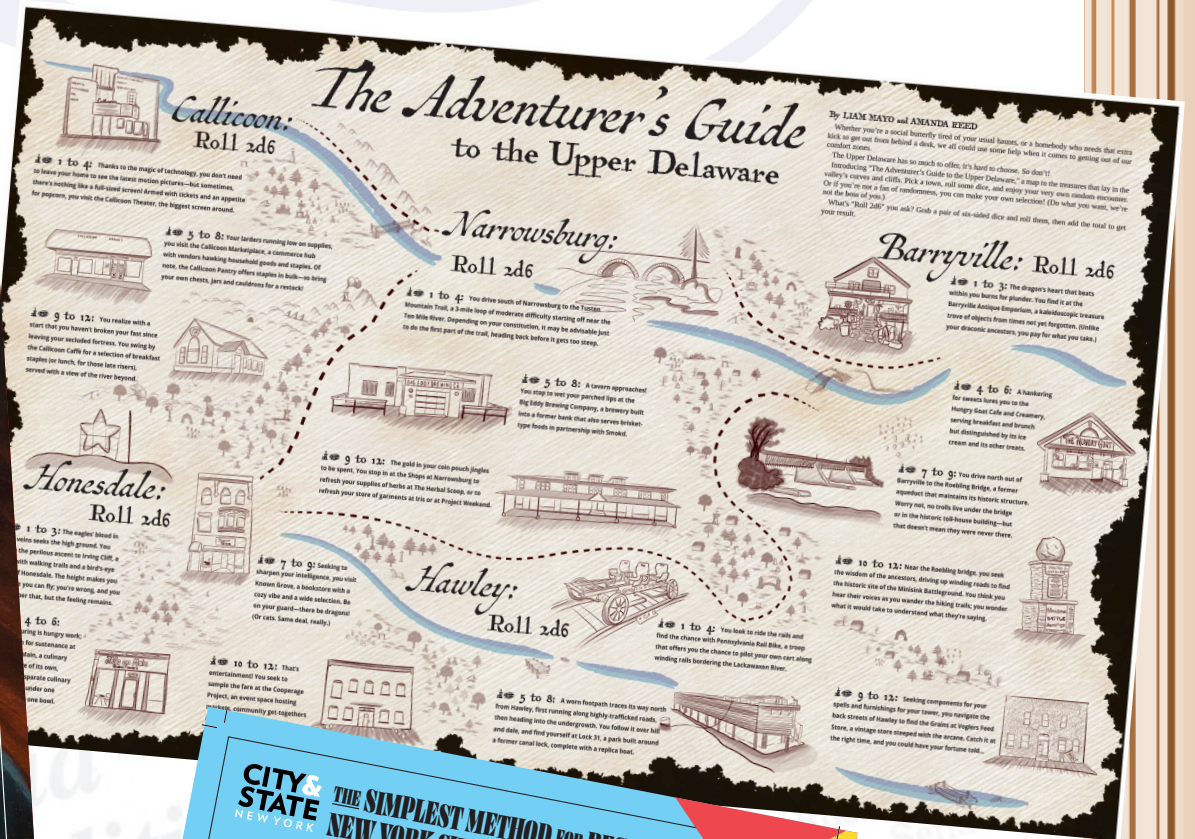
AMANDA REED AND LIAM MAYO, THE RIVER REPORTER

"This is a fun and interesting exercise to encourage the reader to engage with the area.
Recognition should be given to the time and effort given to faithfully hand draw each of the featured attractions."

THIRD PLACE

KATHLEEN FU, CITY & STATE

"This is a busy, but cleanly organized layout. The bespoke illustrations clearly convey their meaning to the accompanying text point. It's interesting to look at while absorbing the overall message."



Excellence Awards

INNOVATIVE AD PROJECT

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Andrea Rothchild, Stephanie Karnik, Nannette Fevola, Adrian Debattista and Donna Saladino
How refreshing to launch a multi media initiative focusing on “good news” and the efforts of those who “move the community forward” on Long Island. There are so many unsung heroes to spotlight along with the businesses and institutions that support them and it’s a true win-win for all involved. “Together Long Island” is a clear and impressive success story.

SECOND PLACE

North Country This Week
Potsdam
Amanda Hitterman, John Basham, Debbie Morgan, Cathy Whalen and Bill Shumway
This initiative is a perfect example of how well the concept of “we’ll meet you halfway” benefited everyone involved. The non-profit organizations gained the opportunity to spotlight their services and highlight their staff at a very discounted price and “North Country This Week” gained additional revenue it most likely wouldn’t have had otherwise. Readers also were rewarded by learning about the businesses in their own neighborhoods and hopefully, supported them in some small (or large) way. The success of the initiative speaks for itself... more than 100 spotlight pages in 2025 is no small feat!

THIRD PLACE

Capital Region Living Magazine
Saratoga Spring
Annette Quarrier
12 Under 12 is another example of highlighting “good deeds” within a community rather than the constant drum of negative news. The fact that the good deeds are due to the efforts of very young folks (all under 12 years of age) gives one hope that all is not lost and we’re going to be just fine! Kudos for seeking and publishing the good news that always exists “somewhere” and giving the kids a much deserved nod.

BEST EVENT

FIRST PLACE

Capital Region Living Magazine
Saratoga Spring
Great idea!

SECOND PLACE

The Millerton News
Falls Village
Fantastic use of art. Easy to understand.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Very creative use on words.

BEST NEWS VIDEO

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Examiner
Mount Kisco
Spenser Walsh
Very complete report. Liked the mix between interview and b-roll.

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Gabriele Holtermann
Love this!

THIRD PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn
Olivia Seaman
Nice mix of viewpoints here.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
A very weighty topic that was handled with care. High production value.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Well produced and very well sourced. Appreciated the thoroughness.

THIRD PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Dean Moses
This video does a good job of capturing the chaos of the protest.

BEST FEATURE VIDEO

FIRST PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Randee Daddona, Virginia Huie and Susan Yale
This is very well done and well photographed. Painted a poignant picture of how some families choose to memorialize fallen soldiers.

SECOND PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Very high production value and very interesting.

THIRD PLACE

Newsday
Melville
Chris Ware
Good access helps greatly here.

BEST PODCAST

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Red Hook Daily Catch
Red Hook
Very informative and keeps you wanting to listen

SECOND PLACE

Southampton Press -
Eastern Edition
Southampton
Annette Hinkle
Great podcast!

Best Podcast

Division 1
THIRD PLACE
The Rye Record
Rye
Camille Botello
I love the story behind this one.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Daily Gazette
Schenectady
Great enthusiasm!

SECOND PLACE

Daily Gazette
Schenectady
I love this theme.

THIRD PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Jessica Marshall and Patrick Tine
Great way to keep your audience engaged.

BEST NEWSLETTER

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Chris Marshall
If I cared about sports and I lived in Rye, this would be a must-read. It does what a newsletter should: updates you on the current situation, gives you access to some more things you might like to read, lets the reader know what *you* can’t stop thinking about — and then gets out of the way. Too many newsletters are WAY too busy; too many pictures, too much formatting, too many colors; that’s not what I want from a newsletter. Work less hard. Be cool. Tell me what I need to know. Then go away. Between the Lines does that with a smart, fun tone, well-chosen images, and simple formatting where you’re letting black text and bold font do the work. And the lead story choice is excellent; anticipating the big game is sometimes a bigger moment in peoples’ lives than the game itself, so hanging out in that moment with your community via the newsletter feels like the right choice.

SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Explorer
Saranac Lake
Melissa Hart
This style of newsletter is most similar to an editor’s letter at the front of a magazine; something that shows the editor’s point-of-view that gently frames the content that will follow. I like that they’ve included a brief sentence that contextualizes why they’ve included the subsequent stories, such as “a part of our ongoing reporting on SUBJECT” or “most read” or a call-to-action. The selection of which stories to share is also good. I know I don’t always read my newsletters right away, so breaking news doesn’t work, for me, in a newsletter. I’m looking for a good read on something interesting, and that’s what you’ve got here.

THIRD PLACE

The Rye Record
Rye
Christian Falcone
On the Record’s open rate - 70% - speaks for itself. The formatting is no-nonsense and doesn’t take my time for granted, and the stories offer a high value for my click.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

amNewYork Metro
Brooklyn
Emily Davenport
Having election info come straight to my inbox sounds so convenient. This is well formatted and it is info you need. Excellent.

SECOND PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Shannon Fromma
If I lived in your community, I’d be looking forward to knowing where to shop for good prices on fresh food! This is a nice service to readers/your community.

THIRD PLACE

Times Union
Albany
Steve Barnes
Restaurant / food reviews are a great topic for a newsletter; if you don’t have a local foodie friend who can tell you where to dine, no worries; Steve’s got you.



Richard L. Stein Award for Overall Design Excellence, 2025

FIRST PLACE NEWSDAY

"These entries are outstanding! Clear purpose easily translated emotions of stories, both serious and light. This is a hard category with such amazing entries, but you guys nailed it. Easy to navigate, excellent use of color and column changes to pull readers in. The touch of notices of "Newsday Only, What Newsday Found", is like having a search/AI engine in a print edition. Congrats!"

SECOND PLACE SARA MANNINO KENT AND KERRI CUNNINGHAM, SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

"Excellent entry. Such hard choices with the level of competition in New York Press. These papers have renewed faith in the newspaper industry."

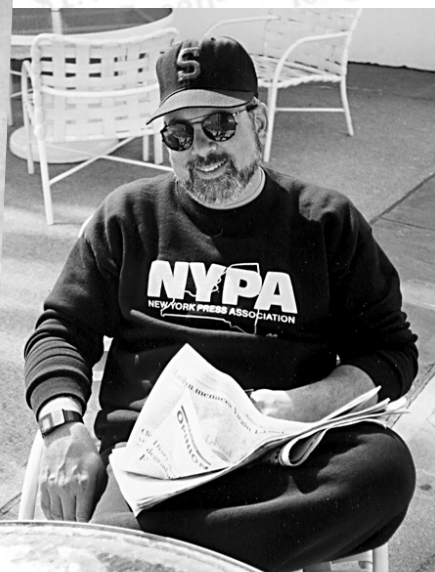
THIRD PLACE PIERCE STUDLER, THE HIGHLAND'S CURRENT

"Very engaging news product. The variable headlines and creative impact bring the reader to see each page as a unique storyline like a personalized newsletter."



RICHARD L. STEIN

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



Sharon R. Fulmer Award for Community Leadership, 2025

FIRST PLACE

ADAM STONE, THE EXAMINER

“Fantastic use of editorial resources and commitment to keep readers and a community caring about a topic.”

SECOND PLACE

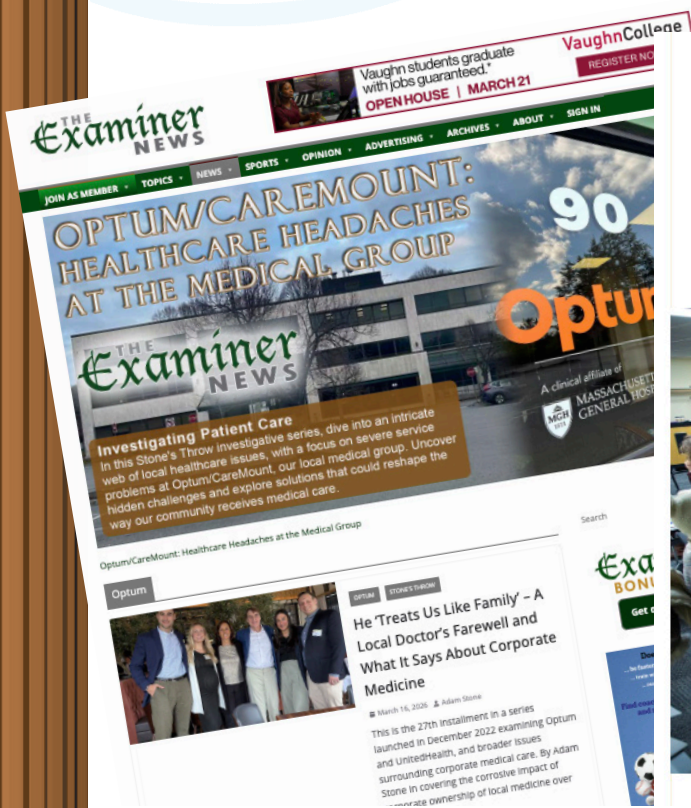
ALEX ARRIAGA AND KATE HARLOE, NEW YORK FOCUS

“Great model of making the most out of listening. Awesome entry.”

THIRD PLACE

JEFF MORRIS, THE RECORDER NEWS

“Great job utilizing news products to drive home this massively important topic for the community.”



New York Focus Statewide Community Listening Tour



SHARON R. FULMER

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



Michelle K. Rea Award for Best Freedom of Information

FIRST PLACE

DEAN MOSES, AMNEWYORK METRO

“As attention on ICE and deportations grow, it’s become even harder to cut through the propaganda. Moses and amNY are doing a huge service to readers showing something the federal government is trying to hide. The consistent coverage goes a long way to shedding light on this issue.”

SECOND PLACE

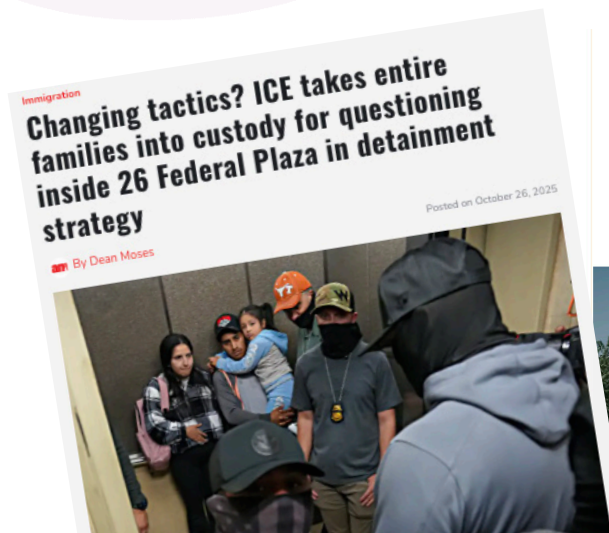
CHRIS BRAGG, NEW YORK FOCUS

“Well reported and in-depth research to show multiple conflicts of interest by New York politicians.”

THIRD PLACE

ADAM STONE AND ABBY LUBY, THE EXAMINER

“Great use of FOIL to bring to light the separation agreement and its cost to the taxpayers. Really liked that it was linked in its entirety on the news site.”



MICHELLE K. REA

“Michelle Rea, former Executive Director of the New York Press Association and the New York Press Service, has long been a driving force in the world of journalism. With a career defined by versatility and excellence, she has demonstrated exceptional skill in sales, writing, editing, advocacy, and organizational leadership — consistently bringing vision to life and advancing the industry forward.

Since assuming leadership of the New York Press Association in March of 1992, Michelle has played an instrumental role in shaping the organization into what it is today. Her guidance and tireless efforts on behalf of the industry have left an enduring impact.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Michelle’s dedication to public service is equally remarkable. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she joined New York Press Association board members on the ground to assist with cleanup efforts — an embodiment of her compassion and willingness to step forward when it matters most.

This award is being established for the first time in honor of Michelle’s extraordinary dedication and lasting contributions to journalism and community alike.”



Best High School Newspaper, 2025

TOWER

Tower from The Masters School, is the 2025 Best High School Newspaper in New York State.

The newspaper staff earned 195 contest points, including the first place award for News Story, Column, Arts Coverage/Story, Best Front Page, Online/Multimedia Story, Social Media/Audience Engagement, Short Video Clips, Special Recognition, and five other awards.

The judges said, "Very professional. Really well done. I especially enjoyed the Nov issue."

BEST OVERALL PUBLICATION (PRINT OR ONLINE)

FIRST PLACE

The Phoenix
Uniondale
FANTASTIC! Video stories that are well written in addition to being well shot and edited. Website layout is terrific. We could all learn from these folks...Site is so cutting edge I wonder whether the big blah mission statement up top takes away from the exciting dynamism of the site. Well done!

SECOND PLACE

Hoofbeats
Merrick
Beautifully done. Layout is great with lots of white space and big photos. Interesting, relevant stories tightly edited so they don't jump. A clear hands down winner.

THIRD PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Very professional. Really well done Especially enjoyed the Nov issue. Don't use colored headlines; stop fiddling around with your fonts from issue to issue. Stick with one styles.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Alex Kagoshima
Great localizing of a national story. Strong lede. Very well (tightly) written. Good job.

News Story

SECOND PLACE

Hoofbeats
Merrick
Mark Oladipo
Among many submissions about Gov Hochul's school cell phone ban this entry stands out above the pack. Nice lede, limited "official speak, well written. Good job.

News Story

THIRD PLACE

Jet Gazette
East Meadow
Nusaiiba Nursi
A great example of what tight active writing can do for a story. Nice lede. Super job jumping right into the story, leading with student reaction and also getting school officials reaction but putting that "official speak" later in the piece and ending with another student's thoughts. Good job.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE

Chaminade Athletics
Mineola
Thomas Gamba
This piece succeeds because it finds a real story behind an eye-catching statistic. The opening immediately pulls the reader in, and the writer smartly builds the narrative around contrast — a student who once struggled in P.E. becoming a world-record holder through discipline and persistence. Quotes are used effectively to let the subject's personality and mindset come through without overexplaining. The pacing is strong, the reporting is clear, and the ending feels earned. This is confident, engaging feature writing that keeps the focus on growth, motivation, and character rather than just the record itself.

SECOND PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Siena Versaci
This is an ambitious and well-researched piece that tackles a complex, timely issue with clarity and depth. The writer does an effective job connecting national policy decisions to their real-world impact on students, grounding the story with knowledgeable sources and relevant student voices. The reporting is thorough and demonstrates a strong command of the topic. At times the article becomes dense and could benefit from tighter focus and more narrative flow, but the overall work reflects serious journalistic effort and thoughtful analysis. A strong, informative feature that shows maturity and range.

THIRD PLACE

Chaminade Athletics
Mineola
Roman Brunetti
This is a meaningful and clearly reported story about a frightening moment and the quick thinking that made a difference. The writer does a good job explaining the sequence of events and letting key voices — especially Bonino and Dubeau's father — carry the emotional weight. The subject matter is strong and handled with care. At times the piece leans more toward straightforward recounting than deeper storytelling, but the reporting is solid and the story effectively highlights courage, friendship, and responsibility in a real-life situation.

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Chaminade Athletics
Mineola
Thomas Gamba
From the opening scene, the writer pulls the reader directly into the moment. The decision to begin with the championship celebration and then trace the path back through the postseason works well, giving the story urgency and emotional weight. The reporting is detailed, but it never loses sight of the bigger picture. Quotes are well chosen and thoughtfully placed, and coaches and players feel present and real, which gives the reader a genuine sense of what this run meant to the team. The newspaper that lands this young sports writer one day will be lucky, indeed!

SECOND PLACE

Chaminade Athletics
Mineola
Roman Brunetti
This piece captures the rhythm and tension of baseball very well, especially across a two-game series that swung emotionally with every inning. The writer shows patience in letting the drama build, trusting the game itself to create the story rather than forcing it. This is an engaging, well-paced account that reflects a strong grasp of the sport. Nice work!

THIRD PLACE

Horizon
Lynbrook
Justin Williams
The opening immediately drops the reader into the chaos and color of Sports Night, and that energy carries throughout the piece. The writer does an excellent job capturing not just who won each event, but what the atmosphere felt like — the noise, the nerves, and the pride each class brought into the gym.

COLUMN

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Alex Kritzer
Brilliant writer.
War on christmas — Spicy. Well written.
Broligarchy — one of the best columns I have read in a long time. He shines a light on the disturbing influence the wealthy have over our current administration.

SECOND PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Ray Dai
Ray is a fantastic writer.
Shame on you is a column we would have ran at my paper. We ran an oped similar in theme. Political infighting takes away from why these public servants are here in the first place. It needs to stop.
Truth Matters — VERY good. He dissects americas distrust of scientific data and the loss of critical thinking skills stemming from an administration that deny's fact and asks us to follow blindly.

THIRD PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Katherine Fortna
I can almost smell Katherine's Grammie's cinnamon rolls. Very descriptive. Captivating and heartfelt.
The column about her father brought a tear to my eye. That is the kind of positive parental messaging dads need to read.

ARTS COVERAGE/STORY

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Elaina Barreto
This is very well written and the subject matter incredibly unique. It takes a lot of courage to conduct these interviews. The message relayed is one of kindness and consideration for the plight of others. The importance of the arts is significant here - but this piece is about so much more than that.

SECOND PLACE

The Courant
Commack
Bryce Infald
Very well written and a great get for a high school to secure a feature on such a prominent actor.

THIRD PLACE

Horizon
Lynbrook
Cassandra Levinson
Beautiful and touching feature on Brady. This highlights his accomplishments and his inspiration.

High School Excellence Awards

FEATURE PHOTO

FIRST PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Isaac Williams
Who could picture gym class, snow, and snowshoes in one image? This series of photos does just that and brings a significant visual image to the story.

SECOND PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Issiah Ruiz
Smiles and action. This photo helps show what lunch looks like without cell phones.

THIRD PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Maria Vinięgra Ocampo
Line them up and shoot photos are not usually inspiring but this one helps tell the story in an engaging way.

SPORTS PHOTO

FIRST PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Isaac Williams
Sand flying, ball in the frame, and a determined look on the golfer's face are all elements that make this a photo that tells the story and draws the reader to want to know more.

SECOND PLACE

Horizon
Lynbrook
Aidan Pearsall
Photographer captures the movement and determination of this play. Players faces show it all.

THIRD PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Cooper Stenger
Capturing the players matching stride by stride and ball in the air took us into the game.

BEST FRONT PAGE

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Elaina Barreto, Jack Bilman and William Grey Dickson
Not only are these well designed front pages, you can see growth and development between the issues. From the more prominent use of the banner in the second issue, to the photos receiving better cropping and placement, it's evident that the layout is maturing with each edition. There are multiple points of entry for the reader, via the use of color, clear and informative captions, as well as great photos and graphics. This all makes for an engaging product and a really fun read. Kudos as well for the well-written stories with quotes and call outs for more information online.

SECOND PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Isaac Williams
Though not traditional front page designs for a newspaper, these are quite stunning visually. A teaser paragraph or two or a reefer bar would be a great way to engage more readers and pull them in to read more.

THIRD PLACE

Hoofbeats
Merrick
Easy to read with teasers in the reefer at the bottom to entice people inside. A solid and simple look which gives readers a clear story.

ONLINE/MULTIMEDIA STORY

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Allie Faber, Gus Creech, Devan Patel and Mason Aguiar
Video, story, maps, quotes... I'm really blown away by this entry. No matter how you like to consume your media, this has something for everyone. A fantastic job bringing a very important topic to life.

SECOND PLACE

The Phoenix
Uniondale
Mary O'Brien
A great short segment on sailing. Where do I sign up?

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION/ INFOGRAPHIC

FIRST PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Leo Fote
This was such a tight competition, with amazing drawings from all the entries. It was a very difficult decision to pick just one. With that being said, this graphic was chosen not only with how well it relates to the story, but also how it provides an urgent feeling with the use of color, the manic strokes in the background and the large punctuation. Readers will most certainly feel that familiar pang of "notification" stress just by seeing that image and it will help draw them in to learn more.

SECOND PLACE

Horizon
Lynbrook
Anabella Errico
A great graphic that really fits the story. The sign hanging off the word shut down... "chefs kiss".

THIRD PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Kira Deering
This pair of drawings made me smile. I too have had a pink puff of a brain randomly trashing things due to lack of sleep. The top part of the illustration has fantastic details and gets better the more you look at it. Both parts compliment the story very well.

SOCIAL MEDIA/AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
The engagement within the school's community was evident through the diversity of posts and representation throughout.

SECOND PLACE

The Verdict
Bayside
This stood out for its creativity and clear connection with its audience... really effective and well-managed overall with smart content choices and a clear sense of strategy.

THIRD PLACE

Chaminade Athletics
Mineola
James Butt
Great approach to content, engaging and moving in a great direction. Shows a good understanding of audience engagement.

SHORT VIDEO CLIPS

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Gus Creech and Rio Imanishi
This video compellingly elevates a timely and universally relevant issue — how AI is reshaping teaching and learning — through balanced reporting, strong storytelling, and real voices from the classroom, making it both informative and impactful for its local audience.

SECOND PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
William Sun and Ryan Lim
This one stands out for how well-edited and purposeful it was created.

THIRD PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Ben Mason, Tor Barreno, Azariah Charles and Anna Kremnev
Visually appealing, and shows an understanding of intentional posting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

FIRST PLACE

Tower
Dobbs Ferry
Azariah Charles
Well done video report focused on an important topic of inclusivity and safety for students of color.

SECOND PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Ray Dai
When meetings become battlefields, the loudest voices, not the wisest ones win. Well said. "Testing the waters" is very well written. Retaining control over a resource as vital as water supply is an issue that will no doubt have a significant impact on Fredonia's elections. Ray's coverage was detailed and concise — shining a light on the environmental, political and sustainability implications of this matter.

THIRD PLACE

The Spectator
Fredonia
Cassandra Cramer and Ray Dai
This is a compelling issue. One many districts are likely facing in the post-covid funding climate. Cassandra has written her piece in a way that is easy to understand. That is no small feat when covering budgetary controversy. The piece is very well done from an informational standpoint. The editorial drives home the reason why budget approval matters. Good luck, Fredonia.



Best College Newspaper, 2025

THE ITHACAN

We don't know what to call a team that wins the same award 23 times, so we'll just call it the Best College Newspaper.

The Ithacan earned 185 points in the college contest, winning first place awards for Best Overall Publication (Print or Online), Sports Photo, Best Front Page, Online/Multimedia Story, Social Media/Audience Engagement, Short Video Clips and nine other awards.

The judges said, "Bold design and clean layout push *The Ithacan* to the top in this very competitive category. Strong story subject selection, and coverage of topics important to campus life, from the controversial to the mundane combine to make this publication an engaging read."

BEST OVERALL PUBLICATION (PRINT OR ONLINE)

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan
Ithaca
Bold design and clean layout push The Ithacan to the top in this very competitive category. Strong story subject selection, and coverage of topics important to campus life, from the controversial to the mundane combine to make this publication an engaging read.

SECOND PLACE

Vanguard
Brooklyn
A great publication: quality journalism, innovative design, sharp layout. It was a tough decision to give another publication a slight edge over the Vanguard.

THIRD PLACE

Fordham Observer
New York
Strong reporting and writing, clean design. Very solid publication.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Gabriel Levin
Solid investigative reporting. Very well done.

SECOND PLACE

Impact, The
Dobbs Ferry
Gabriela Jimenez
Well researched, through reporting on a difficult subject. Good job.

THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Benjamin Leynse
A compelling story. A lot to unpack, but you handled it well.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Angelina Tang
With a bias toward this type of subject matter, I found this story to be fascinating in a category that was difficult to judge because there were so many fine entries. Tang did a good job with this story.

SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan
Ithaca
Julian DeLucia
This is a great read and Ira McKinley is a wonderful subject to write about. I thoroughly enjoyed this read. Job well done.

THIRD PLACE

The Ithacan
Ithaca
Ryan Johnson
Impressive data presentation and great work on the street with an important topic.

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Zeinab Faraj
Faraj did a good job with this story. There are sources on both sides, and the reporter dug in. It stood out in this category.

SECOND PLACE

Cardinal Points
Plattsburgh
Emma Deo
Solid coverage of a championship game.

THIRD PLACE

The Leader
Fredonia
Jack Hoadley
Great look beyond the playing field.

COLUMN

FIRST PLACE

Impact, The
Dobbs Ferry
Cassidy Robideau
In a category with many fine entries, this writer stands out for the subject matter she writes about and the passion she brings to her columns. I enjoyed each read and was enlightened about the plight and struggles of the Native American community. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Campus Times
Rochester
Frankie Brereton
Brereton is a strong essay writer willing to take on important topics and present them in a reasoned and informed way. A good read in a category with strong entries across the board and little difference between first, second and third places.

THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Paul Caruso
Caruso is a courageous columnist willing to take on issues important to him and the student body he is a part of. It is refreshing to read this work.

ARTS COVERAGE/STORY

FIRST PLACE

Campus Times
Rochester
Alex Holly
Excellent treatment of an important campus project. Well organized and engaging.

SECOND PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Melissa Moon and Sophia Romanov Imber
Nice treatment of a quirky topic made for an interesting read.

THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Angelina Tang
This left me wondering if there weren't something more to the production losing its venue, especially after reading in a linked article about its loss of funding too. Good job, though. Made me want to see the movie again.

FEATURE PHOTO

FIRST PLACE

Fordham Observer
New York
Grace Santoli
It is difficult to imagine much excitement and emotion in a club fair, but this photo brings us into the crowded space and gives a glimpse of just that.

SECOND PLACE

Cardinal Points
Plattsburgh
Justin Rushia
Students were off the rails at this event and these photos tell the story well.

THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Connor Lucente
Cell photos waving, performer silhouetted, haze across the lights, tell the story.

SPORTS PHOTO

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan
Ithaca
Rashad Bigelow
The agony is evident in this photo. Facial expressions, contact of players and ball all showing the intensity of the competition.

SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan
Ithaca
Arthur Warzynyak
The anticipation of the dive and the dive draws the reader into the moment. Nice capture.

THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Timmy Xi
Nice action shot. Capturing feet off the ground and ball in the lacrosse stick adds to the dynamic nature of the photo.

BEST FRONT PAGE

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan
Ithaca
Kaiden Chandler
Bright, bold, and stunning. This collection of front pages shows an array of design choices meant to pull a reader in. From the cut out lettering to the carefully selected images, these pages are sure to get the student body to pay attention to what's going on locally.

SECOND PLACE

Fordham Observer
New York
These pages are busy busy and not in a bad way. From arts to sports (and everything in between), these front pages give an amazing amount of points of entry. The images are bright, the headlines are simple. Great job.

THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun
Ithaca
Another great entry that shows front pages can be filled with text, or really shine with alternate layouts. Kudos for having a variety and using strong typography when it counts.



Congrats...
to all of our winners!

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
2025 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST