

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
2019 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



*Celebrating*  
Newspaper Excellence





# And the Winners Are...

## NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR The Independent

**STUART C. DORMAN AWARD**  
*Editorial Excellence*  
The Independent

**JOHN J. EVANS AWARD**  
*Advertising Excellence*  
TIE — Dan's Papers  
TIE — The Post-Standard

**2019 WRITER OF THE YEAR**  
Hannah Dreyfus  
The Jewish Week

**2019 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR**  
Annie McDonough  
City & State

**2019 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR**  
Mike MacAdam  
The Daily Gazette

**2019 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**  
Christina Daly  
Valley Stream Herald

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**  
The Post-Standard — First Place

**THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING**  
The Altamont Enterprise and County Post — First Place, Division 1  
Albany Business Review — First Place, Division 2  
The Red Hook Star-Review — First Place, Division 3  
The Independent — First Place, Division 4

**PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE**  
The Sag Harbor Express — First Place, Division 1  
The Independent — First Place, Division 2

### BEST FRONT PAGE

The Highlands Current — First Place, Division 1  
North Salem News — First Place, Division 2  
The Independent — First Place, Division 3  
The Record-Review — First Place, Division 4

### BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

The East Hampton Press — First Place  
Shelter Island Reporter — Second Place  
The Altamont Enterprise and County Post — Third Place

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

The Independent — First Place

### OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

The Independent — First Place, Division 1  
The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — First Place, Division 2

### ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

The Southampton Press - Western Edition — First Place  
The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — Second Place  
Albany Business Review — Third Place  
The Sag Harbor Express — Honorable Mention

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### PHOTO CREDITS

#### FRONT COVER

TOP - BOY SCOUTS  
Christina Daly  
Valley Stream Herald

BOTTOM LEFT - HARBOR DEBRIS  
Dana Shaw  
The Southampton Press - Eastern

BOTTOM RIGHT - TRACK RUNNER  
Jim MacLean  
The Scarsdale Inquirer

#### BACK COVER

TOP LEFT - RED SKY FIREWORKS  
Christina Daly  
Valley Stream Herald

MIDDLE LEFT - TILT-A-WHIRL  
Jim MacLean  
The Scarsdale Inquirer

BOTTOM LEFT - GRADUATE AND CAP  
Tim Lamorte  
The Rivertowns Enterprise)

TOP RIGHT - GOSPEL CROSS  
Christina Daly  
Valley Stream Herald

MIDDLE RIGHT - BEACHED WHALE  
Dana Shaw  
The Southampton Press - Eastern

BOTTOM RIGHT - SCHOOL BUS STOP  
Dana Shaw  
The Southampton Press - Eastern

# About the 2019 Better Newspaper Contest...

173 newspapers submitted 2,918 entries.

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

487 awards were presented during NYPA's Spring Conference March 27th and 28th, 2020.

The entries were judged by members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

The winners were determined based on the following point system:

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

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

The Express Newspaper Group — 605 POINTS

*Sag Harbor Express, The Southampton Press - Eastern, The Southampton Press - Western, The East Hampton Press*

Times/Review Newspapers — 320 POINTS

*The Suffolk Times, The News-Review, Shelter Island Reporter*

Johnson Newspaper Corporation — 235 POINTS

*Watertown Daily Times, The Daily News, Livingston County News, Register-Star, Daily Mail*

Herald Community Newspapers — 230 POINTS

*Baldwin Herald, Bellmore Herald Life, East Meadow Herald, Franklin Square Herald, Freeport Herald Leader, Glen Cove Herald Gazette, Hempsted Beacon, Long Beach Herald, Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald, Malverne West Hempstead Herald, Merrick Herald Life, Nassau Herald, Oceanside Island Park Herald, Oyster Bay Guardian, Rockaway Journal, Rockville Center Herald, Sea Cliff Glen Head Herald Gazette, Seaford Herald Citizen, South Shore Record, Valley Stream Herald, Wantagh Herald Citizen, The Jewish Star, The Riverdale Press, Uniondale Beacon*

TIE — Schneps Community News Group — 125 POINTS

*Astoria Times, Bay News Bayside Times, Bronx Times Reporter and Bronx Times, Brooklyn Graphic, The Brooklyn Paper, Caribbean Life, Chelsea Now, The Courier Sun, The Extra Courier, Downtown Express, El Correo de Queens, The Flushing Times, Forest Hills / The Western Courier, Gay City News, Healthwise Magazine, Long Island Press, Manhattan Express, Mill Basin Courier, North Shore Towers Courier, Northeast Courier, Noticia, Park Slope Courier, Queens Business Today, Queens Courier, Queens Family, Ridgewood Times and Times Newsweek, The Villager Express, The Ledger, The Villager (NYC)*

TIE — Ogden Newspapers of New York — 125 POINTS

*Adirondack Daily Express, Lake Placid News*

## THE TOP FIVE — SINGLE FLAG NEWSPAPERS TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

The Independent — 310 POINTS

The Post-Standard — 205 POINTS

Albany Business Review — 180 POINTS

Dan's Papers — 135 POINTS

The Highlands Current — 125 POINTS

## THE TOP FIVE NEWSPAPERS TOTAL EDITORIAL CONTEST POINTS:

The Independent — 260 POINTS

The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — 150 POINTS

East Hampton Press — 120 POINTS

Albany Business Review — 110 POINTS

The Sag Harbor Express — 95 POINTS

## THE TOP FIVE NEWSPAPERS TOTAL ADVERTISING CONTEST POINTS:

TIE — Dan's Papers — 80 POINTS

TIE — The Post-Standard — 80 POINTS

The Suffolk Times — 55 POINTS

Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — 50 POINTS

Amherst Bee — 45 POINTS

The Village Times Herald — 40 POINTS

### NYNAME WINNERS

The Post-Standard — 80 POINTS

Register-Star — 35 POINTS

TIE — Finger Lakes Times — 20 POINTS

TIE — Times Union — 20 POINTS

TIE — Rome Daily Sentinel — 20 POINTS

TIE — Watertown Daily Times — 10 POINTS

TIE — The Citizen — 10 POINTS



# About the Competition...



## CATEGORY 31 — FEATURE STORY

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

- Division 1:..... Roger Hannigan Gilson, The Other Hudson Valley
- Division 2:..... The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post
- Division 3:..... Michael DeMasi, Albany Business Review
- Division 4:..... Brian Marschhauser, The Yorktown News
- Division 5:..... Mallory Diefenbach, The Daily News
- Division 6:..... Kayla Breen, Press-Republican

## CATEGORY 30 — NEWS STORY

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

- Division 1:..... Natalie Muster, Warsaw's Country Courier
- Division 2:..... Valerie Gordon, The Southampton Press - Western
- Division 3:..... Kirstyn Brendlen, Michael Hinman, Heather J. Smith, The Riverdale Press
- Division 4:..... Benjamin Fang, Queens Examiner
- Division 5:..... Claude Solnik, Long Island Press

## CATEGORY 42 — FEATURE PHOTO(S)

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

- Division 1:..... Sarah Eames, The Daily Star
- Division 2:..... Jim Franco, Colonie-Loudonville Spotlight
- Division 3:..... Julia Hopkins, Watertown Daily Times

## CATEGORY 32 — BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

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

- Division 1:..... Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong and Chip Rowe, The Highlands Current
- Division 2:..... Nassau Herald
- Division 3:..... Press-Republican
- Division 4:..... David Russell and Michael Gannon, Queens Chronicle

## CATEGORY 43 — SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

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

- Division 1:..... Jim MacLean, The Scarsdale Inquirer
- Division 2:..... Ron Esposito, The Southampton Press - Eastern
- Division 3:..... Tim Martin, Register-Star

## CATEGORY 35 — BEST COLUMN

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

- Division 1:..... Steve Wick, The Suffolk Times
- Division 2:..... Leah Dunaief, The Village Times Herald
- Division 3:..... Charley Githler, Ithaca Times

## CATEGORY 29 — SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

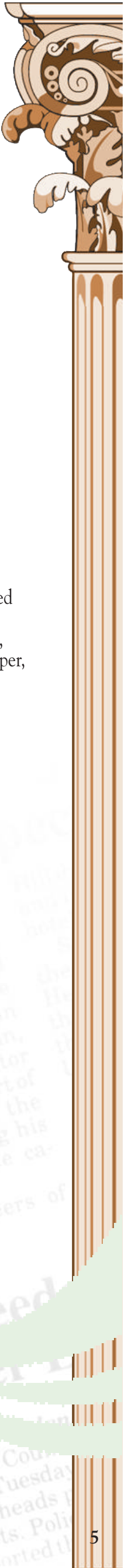
*Great coverage of a single news event — congratulations to:*

- Division 1:..... Grant Parpan, Kate Nalepinski, Steve Wick, Tara Smith, The News-Review
- Division 2:..... B. Bonfiglio, C. Daly, N. Nataly, A. Rifilato, D. Yanes, Freeport Herald Leader
- Division 3:..... Craig Fox and Abraham Kenmore, Watertown Daily Times



# Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2019

There were 21 entries in this category



## FIRST PLACE:

### ANNIE MCDONOUGH, CITY & STATE

As *City & State*'s tech and policy reporter, Annie writes stories for both web and print, and compiles a new weekday email newsletter, First Read Tech. She recently graduated with a master's degree from New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, with a concentration in magazine writing. In 2017, she completed her undergraduate degree in upstate New York at Colgate University, where she studied international relations and English. Her work has appeared in print, radio and online outlets across New York City and the greater Philadelphia area. A native Delawarean, Annie now lives in Alphabet City.

The judges said, "Annie McDonough writes some long stories. But guess what? They don't seem long at all; the pacing, the flow, the perfect placement of quotes move the reader quickly through her insightful and fantastically reported pieces. She approaches complex topics with aplomb and skillfully takes her readers to the heart of the issue while balancing each conflicting side. Solid structure, spot-on word choice. The best of many worthy candidates in this category."



## SECOND PLACE:

### BRIANA BONFIGLIO, ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD

Briana Bonfiglio is a reporter for the *Rockville Centre* and *Oceanside/Island Park Heralds*. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from SUNY New Paltz in May 2018. During college, she interned for the *Seaford* and *Wantagh Heralds* and Hudson Valley's leading arts and culture magazine, *Chronogram*, as well as wrote and served as Arts & Entertainment Editor for the student-run newspaper, *The New Paltz Oracle*. She has been employed full-time at the Herald since October 2018.

The judges said, "An impressive and versatile portfolio, from very tough subject matter — sexual abuse in the Catholic Church — to personality profiles to event coverage. What shines through in every story is Briana Bonfiglio's attention to the telling detail, quotes that move the story forward, and thoughtful narrative."



## THIRD PLACE:

### ELIZABETH LEPRO, THE RIVER REPORTER

Elizabeth Lepro is a native of northeast Pennsylvania, just across the border from *The River Reporter*.

She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a dual degree in sociology and nonfiction English writing. While there, she interned at the investigative nonprofit PublicSource and the *San Antonio Express-News*. She was the editor in chief of *The Pitt News*, the daily student newspaper where her love for journalism was fostered.

After graduating from Pitt, Elizabeth lived in Cairo, Egypt for a year, working for the American University in Cairo's communications office. After returning to the U.S. she went to work for *The River Reporter*.

Elizabeth is invested in the future of rural reporting and telling people's stories. She's also invested in horror movies, diners and big dogs.

The judges said, "From hard news to a first-person narrative, Elizabeth Lepro's stories are as crisp, fresh and nourishing as an apple plucked right from the tree. A terrific balance of in-depth reporting and fine storytelling."



# Excellence Awards

## PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

This is an excellent newspaper with great content in each category. The newspaper received a total of 94 points out of a possible 100.

### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton

This newspaper received almost perfect scores in each category, with the lowest scoring category being graphic design and typography with a score of 8 out of 10. Newspaper received a total of 93.5 points.

### THIRD PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale

This is an excellent newspaper. There is a wide variety of content in news coverage, good use of pictures, community, editorial, front page content, family/lifestyle/features, sports, advertising, and graphic design. 90.5 points.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

This is an excellent overall paper, with almost perfect scores in each category. The lowest scored category was the advertising design and layout which could use a little bit of work. 90.5 points.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton

This is a very good newspaper — it could be excellent if it reworked the editorial pages.

### SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

This is an excellent newspaper, minus the very miniscule sports content. This newspaper received 85.5

### THIRD PLACE

Colonie-Loudonville Spotlight, Colonie

This paper earned high marks 8-10 in almost every category, while the news coverage received a 17 out of 20 score. This newspaper received 85 points.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Gay City News, New York

This is a very colorful newspaper. An excellent source of photos, news coverage, advertising, etc. This paper received a total of 80.5 points.

## "ROOKIE" REPORTER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

City & State, New York  
Annie McDonough

Some long stories. But guess what?

They don't seem long at all; the pacing, the flow, the perfect placement of quotes moves the reader quickly through her insightful and fantastically reported pieces. She approaches complex topics with aplomb and skillfully takes her readers to the heart of the issue while balancing each conflicting side. Solid structure, spot-on word choice. The best of many worthy candidates in this category.

### SECOND PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald, Rockville Centre

Briana Bonfiglio

An impressive and versatile portfolio, from very tough subject matter — sexual abuse in the Catholic Church — to personality profiles to event coverage. What shines through in every story is the writer's attention to detail, quotes that move the story forward, and thoughtful narrative.

### THIRD PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg

Elizabeth Lepro

From hard news to a first-person narrative, the stories are as crisp, fresh and nourishing as an apple plucked right from the tree. A terrific balance of in-depth reporting and fine storytelling.

## WRITER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

The Jewish Week, New York

Hannah Dreyfus

The reporter dives fearlessly into difficult subject matter. Her nuanced writing helped give voices to the men and women who have been victims of abuse. Writer of the year included all different types of stories from news agencies big and small, but the writer expertly localized an important — and difficult to talk about — subject. Excellent sourcing, as well as digging for data, brought these stories to life and kept me reading. Great job!

### SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca

Matt Butler

This category was extremely close. The reporter's work tackled difficult subjects and brought into the open stories of mismanagement, incompetence and recovery. Strong writing, as well as great topics, made this the second-place winner — it was just edged out of first place.

### THIRD PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

Elizabeth Floyd Mair

Great writing, and very hard-hitting work from this reporter. Stories included difficult-to-obtain information that I'm sure were difficult to write due to their subject matter. These stories will change lives and will continue to give your very fortunate readers a reason to pick up their newspaper moving forward.

## SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Mike MacAdam

Great breadth and fine writing distinguish these entries. Without question, this was the number one entry.

### SECOND PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald, Rockville Centre

Tony Bellissimo

Tight writing, vivid detail and great range distinguish these entries from the rest. Very nice job.

### THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Bob Liepa

It's clear this writer values the people as much as the statistics they compile. A great job, showing a nice writing style and significant range.

## PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

### FIRST PLACE

Valley Stream Herald, Valley Stream

Christina Daly

Fireworks, sports, fun and emotion.

This portfolio has a little bit of everything. And each image tells a story. Great angles. Very strong entry.

### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton

Dana Shaw

Enjoyable portfolio. Good combination of feature, news and sports work.

### THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

Jim MacLean

Nice action and colorful portfolio. The photographer didn't forget to change levels to get a different perspective. Best of all, his perspective tells the story readers want.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson

Tim Lamorte

Nice overall entry. Good color. Nice change of perspective. Images tell a story. A little light on the action photography.

## BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Pierce Strudler

Overall — nice presentation, good photography, masthead is clean, layout is appealing. Consistent title capitalization. Attractive and varied layouts. Writing is also very clean. Nicely done.

### SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Maria Gennaro and Joe Werkmeister

Great photography — upbeat and clever, technically good. Strong, professional masthead. Clean writing.

### THIRD PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville

David F. Sherman

Strong photography, attractive layout, good masthead, consistent title capitalization.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The News-Review, Riverhead

Lauren Sission, Steve Wick and Joe Werkmeister

Well written. Nice, strong masthead. Clear, sharp images (although I wish Villanova had provided one of Ethan Greenidge's face showing). Headlines are consistently capitalized. Nicely done.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

North Salem News, North Salem

Jodi Weinberger, Tabitha Pearson

Marshall and Christina Rose

Nice photos & good headlines. Aesthetically pleasing.

### SECOND PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport

Really great photos - they make the page.

### THIRD PLACE

Mahopac News, Mahopac

Bob Dumas, Tabitha Pearson Marshall

and Christina Rose  
Nice masthead. Good photography.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Valley Stream Herald, Valley Stream

Peter Belfiore, Melissa Koenig, Nicole Alcindor, Yolanda Rios and Judy Ammerman

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
The quality of the photography is excellent and engaging. Well done!

### SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca

Marshall Hopkins

Excellent use of bold photography; clear and strong fonts; nice use of index in block formation along bottom of pages — all make these front pages consistent. They definitely make a statement.

### THIRD PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea

Mark Ramos and Robert Pozarycki

Like the bold masthead. Great front page teasers make you want to get into these papers. Wonderful masked photo overlaying the masthead on the Nov. 7 issue. The event banners along the base of pages is a great touch.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Villager (NYC), New York

Mark Ramos and Robert Pozarycki

Really attractive masthead. Very community minded photos.

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

The Record-Review, Bedford

Nice photography. Clean masthead. Interesting stories. This was the only paper that I felt like, wait, I want to read that story! Congratulations. Lots of good stuff.

### SECOND PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale

Michael Hinman and Richard Stein

Nice, clean masthead without interruptions. Solid writing. Good topics. Nice photos. Some inconsistent Oxford comma usage. Some extra commas where there shouldn't be.

### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown

Matt Underwood

Headline says it all. Strong, powerful photo evokes immediate emotion.

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

### FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton

Beautifully written, well designed, carefully edited and curated, and with a nice variety of art and viewpoints. A first-place effort, for sure.

### SECOND PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island

Ambrose Clancy

Nice clean layout, nicely written editorials, informative columns, good art, cartoons and a lively letters section makes this winner. Nice job!





# Writer of the Year, 2019

There were 42 entries in this category



## FIRST PLACE: HANNAH DREYFUS, THE JEWISH WEEK

Hannah Dreyfus is a staff writer for the *New York Jewish Week* newspaper, published online and in print. Her work focuses on abuses of power within religious and non-profit settings and holding institutions accountable to their constituents. In 2019, she tracked New York state's historic passage of the Child Victims' Act, legislation that extends the statute of limitations for a survivors of child sexual abuse in criminal and civil cases in New York. Her investigative work delved into a complex Title IX case filed at a preeminent rabbinical seminary; the questionable practices of rabbinic ethics committees' tasked with policing their own members; and a former middle-school rabbi arrested by federal agents in September of 2019 for possessing child pornography and extorting minors for sex. Her work exposed a pattern of behavior that shadowed the rabbi's storied education career, culminating in the fall arrest that left a community of parents and students stunned.

Despite difficult headwinds, Dreyfus persists on reporting difficult stories that give voice to disempowered and stigmatized segments of the Jewish community, including LGBTQ youth, Orthodox women chained to broken marriages by religious law, and survivors of child sexual abuse. Her investigative work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *ProPublica*, *Mother Jones* and *VICE*!. She heads the Investigative Journalism Fund, a special project of The Jewish Week to fill a gap in investigative and enterprise reporting. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and son.

The judges said, "The reporter dives fearlessly into difficult subject matter. Her nuanced writing helped give voices to the men and women who have been victims of abuse. Writer of the year included all different types of stories from news agencies big and small, but Hannah expertly localized an important — and difficult to talk about — subject. Excellent sourcing, as well as digging for data, brought these stories to life and kept me reading. Great job."



## SECOND PLACE: MATT BUTLER, ITHACA TIMES

Matt Butler is the managing editor of the *Ithaca Times*, an alt-weekly newspaper in Ithaca, NY. He moved to Ithaca shortly after graduating from the University of Delaware in 2016, accepting the general assignment reporter position and ascending to the managing editor role in 2018. His stories range from documenting the struggles of the homeless and impoverished in Ithaca and investigating wage theft and labor complaints in local organizations all the way to gambling previews of the local Chili Cook-Off. His work has appeared in the *Ithaca Times*, *Delaware Today Magazine* and the *Maine Antique Digest*. He enjoys spending his free time lobbying passing pedestrians to support his long-term goals of bringing a minor league baseball team to Ithaca or FOIL-ing for write-in candidate ballots.

The judges said "This category was extremely close. The reporter's work tackled difficult subjects and brought into the open stories of mismanagement, incompetence and recovery. Strong writing, as well as great topics, made this the second-place winner — it was just edged out of first place."



## THIRD PLACE: ELIZABETH FLOYD MAIR, THE ALTAMONT ENTERPRISE AND ALBANY COUNTY POST

Elizabeth Floyd Mair covers Guilderland, a large suburb of Albany with a population of 36,000, in words and pictures. She covers crime, government, schools, business, and more — sometimes with words and photographs and other times with photographs alone that speak for themselves.

Before joining *The Enterprise* in 2015, she worked freelance for the *Albany Times Union*, writing hundreds of features.

Floyd Mair lived in Tokyo, Japan, working for almost a decade as a book editor in a publishing company. She speaks Japanese and has worked freelance as an interpreter.

In past New York Press Association contests, she has won first prize for News Story in Division 1 and second prize in the Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting.

The judges said, "Great writing, and very hard-hitting work from this reporter. Stories included difficult-to-obtain information that I'm sure were difficult to write due to their subject matter. These stories will change lives, and will continue to give your very fortunate readers a reason to pick up their newspaper moving forward."



# Excellence Awards

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

### THIRD PLACE

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

These pages reflect a newspaper firmly rooted in the local soil. The lead editorial is always a nice piece of writing, and on the many, many pages that follow, community members weigh in with lively election debates, folksy columns, claims and counter claims, many which carry editorial notes and responses from the other side of the fence. Other editorial sections are more carefully pruned, but here the pages are an organic thicket that serves the community well.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
Best all-around photography entry.

### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton  
Great sampling of photos of local interest.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Chock full of photos; local photos of interest and good quality.

## OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
Excellent layout and design, easy to read and ads are well done.

#### SECOND PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island  
Layout, ads and overall design easy to read, eye catching.

#### THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
Design and layout easy to follow with the eye. Ads also easy to read.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Great layout and design on each page. Photography and ad design exceptional. Kudos to your team.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Wonderful photography, layout and ad design. Easy to read and packed full stories. Would be nice to see color on every page.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale  
Easy to read headlines, photos and ads are a bit dark, overall layout easy to follow with the eye.

## ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach  
Best ad in all entries: Fourth of July ad for Dr. Jack Heller vet. Very high-quality business card and classifieds - clean and interesting graphically.

### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Standout ad for Montauk Plumbing in magazine on p.91.

### THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
Clean, professional work. Good examples of small-space retail.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Hard working small-space ads.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Karen Sherwood, JoAnne Coughlin Walsh and Tom Brown*  
Wow. Just wow. Great example of community leadership. Raising \$47,000 is no small feat and this entry shows just how it can be done. Leadership is the common thread throughout the entire entry, with the accompanying letter explaining how staffers raised the money. And attached brochures and promotional materials go above and beyond the other entries. The Post Standard even had a mascot for the effort. Great job.

### SECOND PLACE

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach  
*Anthony Rifilato*  
Damn good reporting! Excellent coverage of government spending, complete with strong editorial support. Clearly the newspaper took a leadership position here, with its efforts exposing corruption and prompting further auditing. The newspaper allocated far more space to the coverage that most would have done. Outstanding job.

### THIRD PLACE

Long Island Advance, Patchogue  
*Nicole Fuentes, Linda Leuzzi, Glenn Rohrbacker and Randall Waszynski*  
Way to take the lead in a very controversial subject. The reporting is excellent, and the editorial support gives credibility to the need to address prejudice in the community.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
Solid investigative reporting and op/ed support. Reporter H. Rose Schneider exposed the possible illegal actions in the firing of transfer-station employees and her publication backed it up with a call for correcting the situation. Following the story through, the coverage and editorial support eventually prompted the improper terminations to be overturned. Excellent leadership. This package shows how a newspaper can make a difference in the community.

## HONORABLE MENTION

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
Great coverage of the effort to bring businesses and entrepreneurs home. Nice accompanying photography. Although there is an accompanying letter, the entry lacks proof of the newspaper's leadership in the "Coming Home" effort. It's missing supporting editorials or columns, and advertising and promotion. After-the-fact coverage alone does not show leadership. Still, there's no reason to doubt the newspaper role, and the amount of space dedicated to this coverage shows the publication is invested in the topic.

## BEST NEWS WEB SITE

### FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Great use of photography. Nicely designed, easy to navigate. Like that comments are tracked on stories to see what everyone is talking about. The mixed-media page is great, only wish the link to the video wasn't buried in the text (as user, I expected the top image to open as video).

### SECOND PLACE

The Chronicle, Goshen  
*Pete Pinto, Christina Scotti and Pam Chergotis*  
Very nice site; attractive use of photos; accepts user comments; easy to contact to staff & unique to have a local games tab.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
High design concept well executed. No opportunity for reader comments and a navigation bug I encountered detracted from a higher place finish.

## THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD IN-DEPTH REPORTING

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
*Melissa Hale-Spencer*  
You really drew me into this story, great detail.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Columbia Paper, Ghent  
*Diane Valden*  
The great beginning telling the story's result and then you filled in the many details.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown  
*Chip Rowe*  
Your opening could have been stronger by tying it to the readers: white supremacists are growing their movement next door (hinted at in the title, "The Extremist Next Door." A sentence or two in that vein would lead nicely into the podcast. Well-written multi-faceted article. I appreciated the accompanying breakouts, photos and notes.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
*Elizabeth Floyd Mair*  
You told a difficult story with cautionary insight and weaved in the family's loss.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Chelsea Diana and Liz Young*  
A thoroughly impressive account of how the idea for a jobs-producing high-tech hub failed to deliver on its promises, despite the infusion of millions of dollars of public funds. A complex story artfully explained and detailed. In-depth and explanatory journalism at its best.

#### SECOND PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence  
Comprehensive and complete coverage of an issue — structural racism — which remains embedded within the American experience. The newspaper's devotion to covering this story, which included interviewing 44 sources in seven articles that reached a combined 11,000-plus words, represents a great service to readers and reflects the newspaper's commendable commitment to pursuing journalism that matters to its community.

#### THIRD PLACE

Franklin Square Elmont Herald, Franklin Square  
*Ronny Reyes and Peter Belfiore*  
Journalism that makes a difference: The comprehensive coverage of speeding cars on Dutch Broadway and the ensuing community outrage provided a needed spotlight — and catalyst — for positive change. An excellent example of enterprise reporting on a topic of interest to a broad swath of readers.

### DIVISION 3

#### FIRST PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn  
*Brett Yates*  
Thorough and clear reporting/writing. The lack of attribution struck me as freeing for the writer without sounding made up. You really knew how things work and what the issues are from a lot of angles. I loved this line, which visually describes the business model: Insofar as we've accepted a retail model that, by standard practice, whenever someone wants to buy a box of toothpicks, immediately sends a truck to deliver those toothpicks directly to the buyer's doorstep instead of asking him to walk a few blocks to a store, last-mile distribution centers must exist.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn  
*Brett Yates*  
An amazing piece of journalism. The time, the effort, the story was outstanding, especially about the self-righteous cop and the phases the police force went to try to improve relations and the case stories. Overall, many strong stories put together.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Times of Huntington, Huntington  
*Donna Deedy and David Luces*  
There were a lot of different angles to cover. Interesting to see how it progressed, still not resolved. I'd be interested in what was there before they built a school on it 65 years ago.





# Sports Writer of the Year, 2019

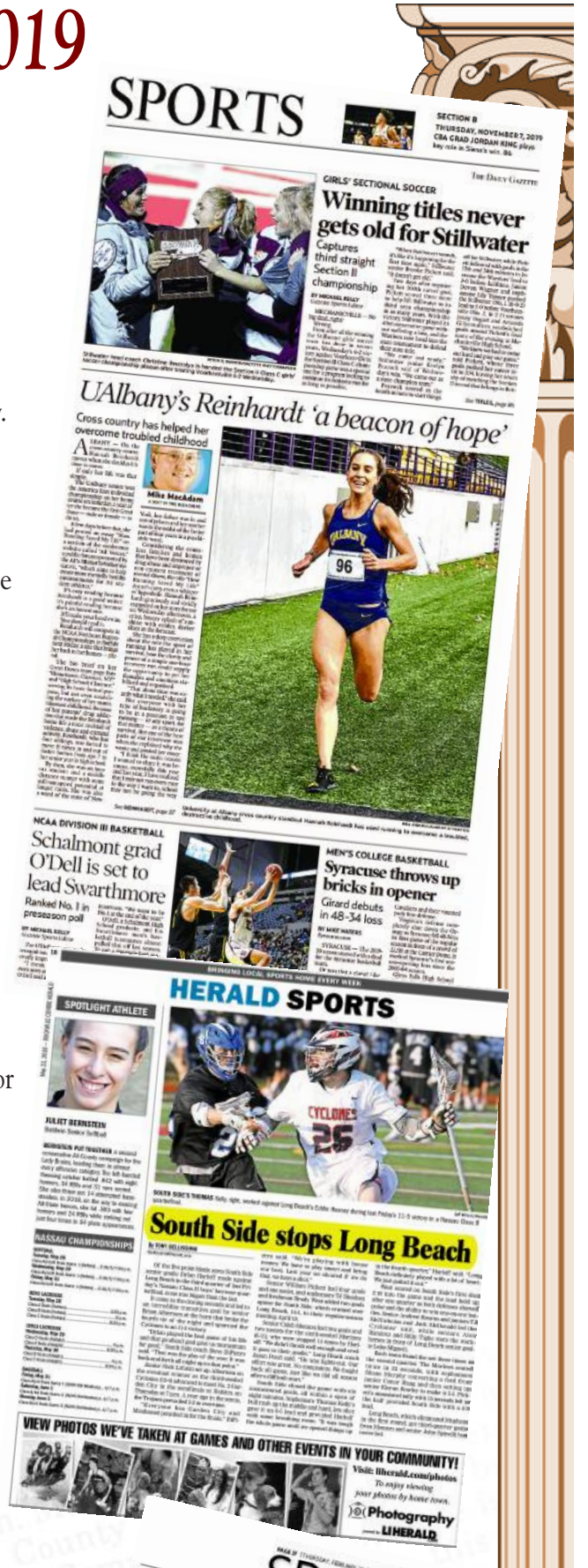
There were 19 entries in this category



## FIRST PLACE: MIKE MACADAM, THE DAILY GAZETTE

Mike MacAdam has been a member of *The Daily Gazette's* sports department since 1987, covering a variety of beats along the way. Currently, MacAdam serves as the department's columnist, and covers horse racing and college hockey as his primary beats. Additionally, MacAdam plays a valuable role in the day-to-day production of the newspaper.

The judges said, "Great breadth and fine writing distinguish these entries. Without question, this was the the number one entry."



## SECOND PLACE: TONY BELLISSIMO, ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD

After serving 13 years as a freelance sports reporter for Herald Community Papers, Tony Bellissimo joined the company as its full-time Sports Editor in the summer of 2007.

In addition to providing the majority of weekly sports content for the large Nassau County based chain, which also publishes special sections previewing football, basketball, and multiple spring sports, Mr. Bellissimo oversees a staff of four freelance sportswriters and a dozen freelance sports photographers.

Prior to joining the Herald on a full-time basis, Mr. Bellissimo worked the National Football League beat for nine years and held the title of NFL Editor at College and Pro Football Newsweekly.

The judges said, "Tight writing, vivid detail and great range distinguish these entries from the rest. Very nice job."



## THIRD PLACE: BOB LIEPA, THE SUFFOLK TIMES

Bob Liepa has 35 years of reporting and editing experience in newspapers. He is in his 27th year working for Times/Review Media Group. Mr. Liepa started with the company as a general assignment reporter with beats that included government and education. In 1995 he moved to the Sports Department and went on to become sports editor, overseeing sports coverage for *The Suffolk Times* and *The Riverhead News-Review*.

Mr. Liepa won the New York State Press Association's Writer of the Year award in 1991 and its Sports Writer of the Year award in 2000. He was the recipient of the Suffolk County Football Coaches Association's Media Award in 2009. He is a four-time winner of the Suffolk County Wrestling Coaches Association Newsperson of the Year Award (2009, 2013, 2015, 2016).

Mr. Liepa started his professional journalism career working at Metropolitan Soccer Week, where he rose to the position of editor, coordinating coverage of local, national and international soccer.

Mr. Liepa, who is 57, is a graduate of East Meadow High School. He did not write for his high school paper, but he was the sports editor of the Nassau County Community College paper, *Vignette*. A former soccer goalkeeper, he played the sport for 20 years. He resides in Moriches, N.Y.

The judges said, "It's clear this writer values the people as much as the statistics they compile. A great job, showing a nice writing style and significant range."





# Excellence Awards

## THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Kim Velsey*

Your opening profile painted a nostalgic past and brought us to the present with a tearful moment of Fiore accepting her fate. The article went on too many poignant examples, each offering many facets of this problem. The story was filled with empathy, frustration and hope. Incredible well-sourced reporting and compelling writing made eight pages extremely readable.

### SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Kevin Gray*

Excellent and disturbing reporting on water pollution. I was surprised when it morphed from Sand Land to other pollution. The graphics highlighted the story well.

### THIRD PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx  
*David Cruz*

Your hard work shows in pulling together the data. The story showed many aspects of the problem through real people's examples and ended with a positive thing that organized people can do.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Long Island Press, Syosset  
*Claude Solnik*

## COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Cortland Standard, Cortland  
*Shenandoah Briere*

Top-notch watchdog reporting all around. Excellent scene-setting intro on the Cortland County truck dilemma in the story on the county's fiscal crisis. Lede on the recycling story relates well to the common taxpayer/reader. Loved the story on Banewicz's KKK connection with quotes that seem surreal even for today. The fact this guy won via write-in vote is scary. Your stories are well-reported and well-written - and they force readers to pay attention and finish. They shake people awake.

### SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
Solid, straightforward, well-constructed watchdog reporting all around. Absolutely beautiful package on Cuomo - had it all. Fascinating story on Todd Pletcher and his struggle with H-2B visas.

### THIRD PLACE

Suffolk County News, Sayville  
*Nicole Fuentes and Randall Waszynski*

Stories are well-reported through a watchdog lens and written with love for the community they serve. Especially like the Islip town budget story and editorial because they stand up to the ridiculous conditions the city put on viewing a public document.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown  
*Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong,  
Chip Rowe and Michael Turton*  
Excellent watchdog reporting on the county exec's bodyguard.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens  
*Ryan Brady, Michael Gannon  
and Michael Shain*

These varied entries show broad commitment to covering agencies and discovering facts. They are such good reads you hardly notice what deep dives they are.

### SECOND PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx  
*David Cruz, Silé Moloney  
and Christy Rae Ammons*

Your entries show fantastic breadth and deep connections to your community. They are not government meeting coverage. They are so accessible, pertinent to readers — great writing.

### THIRD PLACE

Long Island Press, Syosset  
*Timothy Bolger*

You give deep context on tough topics without also drowning readers in detail. The writing and presentation are engaging.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Cazenovia Republican,  
Cazenovia  
*Kate Hill*

Your commitment to stick with a controversial project shows as you brought as much information to readers as possible from different perspectives.

## COVERAGE OF EDUCATION

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick  
*Andrew Garcia, Erik Hawkins  
and Alyssa Seidman*

Great storytelling. Good use of pictures and pull quotes too. Liked the presentation and the fact that you shared her resignation letter. Great pull quotes, headline/subhead. Connects with readers on an emotional level. Delicate but important subject. Like that you gave a teen suicide hotline at the end as well. Great presentation and education of readers to understand the topic.

### SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and  
Albany County Post, Altamont

Very in-depth article on drug cost impact to budget. Love the chart — easily educated the community on budget changes as well as potential reductions. Very thorough and thoughtful presentation of data. Paper is not afraid to tackle tough issues. Does a great job of putting things into context and communicating facts/data. Good use of pull quotes, charts, to support storytelling.

### THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press,  
East Hampton

Good stories — very educational, balanced, good context, good use of photos/pull quote. Nice graphic to support story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
*Dan Miner and Scott Thomas*  
Very well done! Comprehensive, great layout/design, good use of charts/graphs, love the map. Thorough, good research/data/storytelling.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Westmore News, Port Chester  
*Sarah Wolpoff  
and Victoria Bresnahan*

Good context and great use of photos to support story.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review,  
Brooklyn

*Brett Yates and Nathan Weiser*  
Outstanding writing. Thoughtful, fresh and clear writing tackles complex subjects delivering readers the genuine local journalism every community deserves.

### SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens  
*David Russell, Mike Shain,  
Mike Gannon and Anthony O'Reilly*

The team delivers the latest on education with journalism that informs, enlightens and strengthens communities.

### THIRD PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar  
*Michael Hallisey and Diego Cagara*  
Solid reporting all around in a competitive category.

## COVERAGE OF BUSINESS, FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC NEWS

### FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
What an impressive array of deep-dive enterprise stories. These are big-concept, high-wire projects that require authoritative reporting and compelling storytelling, enhanced by personal stories — and they deliver. The presentation is consistently superb: Bold, engaging design; powerful photography; exemplary use of graphics, sidebars and information pull-outs.

### SECOND PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
*Allissa Kline, James Fink  
and Dan Miner*

Ambitious stories, well-conceived and well-executed, clearly topical and grounded in the community. Thoroughly reported and nicely written — accessible to (and of interest to) a wide spectrum of readers. Excellent design, photography and graphics make every story inviting.

### THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown  
*Victorian Shannon, Jeff Simms  
and Brian PJ Cronin*

The "Living on the Edge" series effectively tackles head-on a subject that most economically challenged communities find difficult to deal with. The "p" word (poverty) can be an uncomfortable issue to parse, but the newspaper approaches it from both the personal and pragmatic perspectives, with a wealth of high-utility sidebar information. Community service journalism of the highest caliber.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor  
*Michelle Trauring  
and Christine Sampson*

Revealing reporting on a community that is undergoing an economic transition, with clear-eyed acknowledgment of all the issues that raises. The cannabis package is beautifully designed and photographed and is as engaging as it is educational.

## COVERAGE OF THE ARTS

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,  
Saranac Lake  
*Griffin Kelly and Aaron Cerbone*  
Great coverage! I felt pulled into all the stories, both in content and visually.

### SECOND PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale  
*Tiffany Moustakas, Julius Motal  
and Raphael Lassauze*

These stories are moving, interesting, informative. Visually, the entries are also very strong.

### THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-  
Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Annette Hinkle and Michelle Trauring*  
Good range of stories. I wanted to keep reading. I enjoyed these stories. Very strong competition this year.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-  
Western Edition,  
Westhampton Beach  
*Annette Hinkle and Michelle Trauring*  
I especially loved "It's Not Easy Being Green." Very, very competitive category this year, or else this entry would have placed higher. Made my job as judge very difficult.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Lake Champlain Weekly,  
Plattsburgh

*Benjamin Pomerance*  
Phenomenal job. I felt like I was pulled into each story and wanted to keep reading. Beautiful way with words and an obvious love of the arts. Thank you!

### SECOND PLACE

Garden City Life, Garden City  
*Dave Gil de Rubio*

Great reporting, vivid details. I loved all of these in-depth portraits and the range that they represented in the art world.

### THIRD PLACE

The Villager (NYC), New York  
*Bob Krasner*

Engaging stories and strong visuals that helped complete the narrative.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Jewish Week, New York  
*Sandee Brawarsky*

This ranking is for all stories submitted by this reporter. Wish I could rank higher ...very competitive category.

## COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### FIRST PLACE

The Record-Review, Bedford  
Attractive packaging, tight writing, and breadth of coverage — from plastic bags to beaver dams — make this a winner.

### SECOND PLACE

The Times of Smithtown  
Township, Smithtown  
*Donna Deedy*

Lovely writing, nice photography, some off the beaten path subjects and a comprehensive and balanced look at charges surrounding a cancer cluster make this entry stand out.

### THIRD PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and  
Albany County Post, Altamont  
Some nice, hard-nosed reporting in this entry. Stories go beyond studies and government handouts and show real initiative. Good job.







# Photographer of the Year, 2019

There were 14 entries in this category



## FIRST PLACE: CHRISTINA DALY, VALLEY STREAM HERALD

Christina Daly, a lifelong *Long Islander*, shot her first newspaper assignment in 2007 and has been hooked ever since. She has worked as the Herald photo editor since 2009 and is responsible for photography, picture selection and story illustration for 18 Heralds and the *Jewish Star*.

A self-taught photographer, Daly is most interested in capturing life's little moments, those split second emotions that are almost impossible to recreate.

The judges said, "Fireworks, sports, fun and emotion. This portfolio has a little bit of everything. And each image tells a story. Great angles. Very strong entry."



## SECOND PLACE: DANA SHAW, THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN

Dana Shaw, Photo Editor at *The Southampton Press*, originally from Western Pennsylvania, moved to the East End of Long Island in May of 1998 to work as the first full-time photographer at *The Southampton Press*. In 1999 she was promoted to Photo Editor. Dana earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Communications at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1989, where she met her husband, Joe Shaw.

In 1989 she started a career in journalism as an assistant editor/reporter/photographer for the weekly newspapers: *The Reynoldsville Star*, *The Sykesville Post Dispatch* and the *Brockway Record* and worked as reporter for the daily the *Punxsutawney Spirit* in Punxsutawney (home of the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil), Pennsylvania. While working for those papers Dana discovered that she had a knack for photography. She then went on to the daily paper *The Leader Times* in Kittanning, PA., where she became their chief photographer.

Dana has been married to Joe for 29 years. Together they live in Hampton Bays, NY, with their two adorable cats Felix and Oscar. In her spare time she is a rescue and transport volunteer for the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center.

The judges said, "Enjoyable portfolio. Good combination of feature, news and sports work."



## THIRD PLACE: JIM MACLEAN, THE SCARSDALE INQUIRER

Jim MacLean is the staff photographer for the *Scarsdale Inquirer*, it's sister publication the *Rivertowns Enterprise*, and the *Scarsdale Living Magazine*. He joined the staff of the *Inquirer* in 2007 and has 20 years of experience overall with weekly newspapers in Westchester County, New York.

A graduate of Fordham University, Jim has won more than 60 NYPA awards over the years including seven in the Photographer of the Year category and two in the Sports Writer of the Year category.

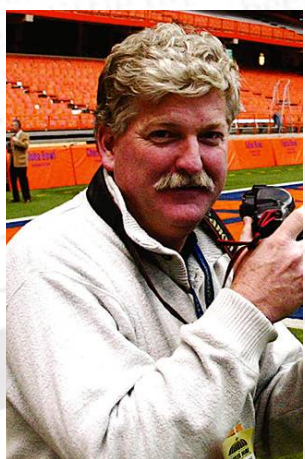
The judges said, "Nice action and colorful portfolio. The photographer didn't forget to change levels to get a different perspective. Best of all, his perspective still tells the story."



## HONORABLE MENTION: TIM LAMORTE, THE RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Tim Lamorte has been the editor of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* for more than 20 years. He has won awards from the New York Press Association (NYPA) and the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA). In the NYPA's annual Better Newspaper Contest, he has placed seven times in the Photographer of the Year category, including first place in 2015. Tim has bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism. He is a lifelong resident of Westchester County.

The judges said, "Nice overall entry. Good color. Nice change of perspective. Images tell a story. A little light on the action photography."





# Excellence Awards

## COVERAGE OF HEALTH, HEALTH CARE & SCIENCE

### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Entries were varied and all interesting. Authors take national topics and tie them in with local perspectives/impacts. There was good information throughout and plenty of voices. Strong effort all around. Great job!

### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach  
Strong entries from staff that covered the gamut of health news and personality profiles. Their community is lucky to have a group like this covering its issues. Good job!

### THIRD PLACE

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

Strong stories ranging from human interest to hard news. Field was incredibly diverse and competitive, and this group stood out for its range. Good job!

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Jewish Week, New York  
*Amy Sara Clark, Hannah Dreyfus, Stewart Ain, Michele Chabin and Madison Hahamy*

Comprehensive coverage of the measles issue from a hyperlocal angle. Stories had a lot of voices and tied a national topic into the local area. Readers are lucky to have this paper. Good job in a competitive field!

### HONORABLE MENTION

GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue  
*Lon Cohen, Nicholas Esposito and Julianne Mosher*

Great profiles throughout! All stories were good reads in a competitive field. The nurse feature could have been fleshed out more, but the stories this news group pursues are great. Put me on the list for the baby cuddle program! Good job!

## HEADLINE WRITING

### FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Steve Wick, Joe Werkmeister and Bob Liepa*

Nice sampling across news categories; consistently accurate, succinct and clever!

### SECOND PLACE

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald, Lynbrook  
*Mike Smollins*

Catchy and accurate headlines sampled across categories. Some obvious thought when into making the puns work.

### THIRD PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway  
*Katie McFadden*

All are clever and appropriate, drawing the reader into the story.

## COVERAGE OF CRIME/ POLICE/COURTS

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Greg Wehner, Valerie Gordon, Rachel Valdespino and Michael Wright*  
Nice selection across a broad range of crime/court stories, written so well it's impossible to stop reading.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Grant Parpan, Kate Nalepinski and Steve Wick*  
Not your everyday crime/court reporting; in-depth and engaging story telling.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
The paper is recognized for its wide range of in-depth stories, with first-person interviews.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*T.E. McMorrow*  
Consistently strong, engaging writing makes this the winner.

#### SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York  
*Duncan Osborne, Matt Tracy and Andy Humm*  
Kudos for providing insightful background on each story, truly comprehensive pieces.

#### THIRD PLACE

North Country This Week, Potsdam  
*Jimmy Lawton, Andy Gardner and Matt Lindsey*  
Comprehensive reporting on the downstream effects of crime, poorly run administrations, and straight-up court reporting.

## COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS/ POLITICS

### FIRST PLACE

City & State, New York  
*Ben Adler, Jeff Coltin, Annie McDonough, Rebecca Lewis and Zach Williams*  
Excellent writing on some important topics.

### SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown  
*Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong, Chip Rowe and Jeff Simms*  
Best overall coverage. Writing was really good but lacked the excellence of the top pick.

### THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York  
*Matt Tracy and Paul Schindler*  
Some excellent writing, and I enjoyed the watchdog-type stories.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The West Side Spirit, New York  
*Doug Feiden*  
Great writing on some high-powered leaders. Best writing in the category but lacked the depth and overall coverage of those ahead of you.

## COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE

### FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton  
*Michael Wright, Elizabeth Vespe, Andrew Messinger and Lisa Daffy*  
The coverage of agriculture news and trends is impressive, and the newspaper was the runaway winner in this category. Michael Wright consistently offers more than expected; his story on overtime was comprehensively sourced and reported and explored related issues that are major factors in the economy of small-scale farming. Excellent use of quotes and descriptive detail; top-drawer reporting at its best. The writer's story on the plight of bees is the best I've read; and I've read many on this slowly unfolding tragedy. All of the writers for this entry were outstanding. Job well-done!

### SECOND PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid  
*Andy Flynn, Elizabeth Izzo and Carol Swirsky*  
A most solid and comprehensive package of farming news, from news to features to profiles to go-see-do pieces. The writing is engaging, informative and entertaining. And practical; yes, I am looking at you, recipe for rhubarb crisp.

### THIRD PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
The coverage of agriculture strongly displays the value the newspaper places on farming issues. The writer's story on rabbits was a delight to read. Nice variety of stories, and the pieces devoted to local farming history were deftly executed.

## COVERAGE OF RELIGION

### FIRST PLACE

Our Town (NYC), New York  
*Emily Higginbotham and Doug Feiden*  
Lovely and thoroughly insightful reporting on a tough story.

### SECOND PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn  
*Erin Degregorio*  
Fascinating and interesting reporting.

### THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York  
*Matt Tracy, Arthur S. Leonard and Paul Schindler*  
Great, clear coverage with meaningful content for the community.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Westbury Times, Westbury  
*Frank Rizzo and Joseph Wolkin*  
Excellent coverage of a variety of stories.

## SPORTS FEATURE

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Bob Liepa*  
"Everybody loves a comeback story." Great local angle, honest storytelling.

#### SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake  
*Elizabeth Izzo*  
Not your typical sports feature, but starts with an engaging lede and takes us step by step through Praveen's story.

#### THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Robin K. Cooper*  
Well written and researched story with impact on the community.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach  
*Cailin Riley, Drew Budd and Gavin Menu*  
The newspaper put together a timely, well-researched look at an issue that more and more schools will be facing in the future.

#### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton  
*Elizabeth Vespe*  
The writer conveys the innocence and excitement of an unexpected journey of a young boy.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Cailin Riley*  
The writer crafts an inspiring story about a young man facing and overcoming challenges.

### DIVISION 3

#### FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown  
*Philip Sanzo*  
The story is an inspiring profile of an athlete whose life is marked by incredible twists and turns.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
*Michael Kelly*  
The writer delves deeply into the life of a rising basketball star, enabling the reader to gain a rare insight into what makes an elite athlete tick.

#### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown  
*Gregory Gay*  
The writer handles a delicate subject with compassion and sensitivity.



# Best Front Page, 2019

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1  
PIERCE STRUDLER — THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

“Overall – nice presentation, good photography, masthead is clean, layout is appealing. Consistent title capitalization. Attractive and varied layouts. Writing is also very clean. Nicely done.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2  
JODI WEINBERGER, TABITHA PEARSON MARSHALL AND CHRISTINA ROSE — NORTH SALEM NEWS

“Great visual, nice headline, aesthetically pleasing.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3  
THE INDEPENDENT

“The quality of the photography is excellent and engaging. Well done!”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4  
THE RECORD-REVIEW

“Nice photography. Clean masthead. Interesting stories. This was the only paper that I felt like, wait, I want to read that story! Congratulations. Lots of good stuff.”





# Excellence Awards

## SPORTS COVERAGE

### TIE - FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton  
*Drew Budd*

Great short story on swim author . . . and photo. Good outdoor columns; real people doing real things beyond the sidelines and dugouts. Variety really spices these pages. And section cover photos are great lures. Good writing, good presentation, good variety.

### TIE - FIRST PLACE

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

Very good event coverage, even comments by participants besides the coaches. Lots of detail. Excellent photos. Great Little League feature . . . with parents included. Great outdoor columns; good variety . . . with a Panda, no less? A team loses: huge action photo eases the pain in this story. Adults get ink, and photos in this comprehensive community sports package. You-catch seafood and sailing add balance to the pages. Excellent features!

### SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
*Gavin Menu, Drew Budd and Cailin Riley*

Lot of ink for a beached whale in this sporting section. Hope some readers consumed it . . . the story, not the subject. In the magazine, another whale of a tale: inanimate Whaler's Cup personified here. Nice feature using a variety of voices, even the cup's. Additional stories in the magazine struck notes of competitive success, if not survival, and treated readers to emotional and practical coverage not apparent on the "regular" sports pages. Some writing needed a good edit but did not detract from story focus in those magazine narratives. Great graphic appeal, too! Nice to read broad community-linked sports stories, such as equestrian, summer swimming. Magazine features "earned" this placement.

### THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
Very good coverage of local traditional sports teams. Stories include competitors' comments along with the usual coaches' remarks. What makes the coverage special is the analysis and "meaning" — besides the inclusion of participants reactions to their actions — planted throughout. Statistic boxes share the space, but the stories carry the real narratives of outcomes and possibilities. Good photos. Good writing/reporting. Absent are stories about community members not aligned with the traditional sports: fun runs, recreational activities, adult fitness through competition and personality features in general — a couple were part of these entries.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Smithtown News, Smithtown  
*Anthony Lifrieri*

Lots, and lots, and lots, and lots of team event coverage. Stories (not all, some) include comments/reactions from participants. Good photos; good written accounts. Very good feature on special teams under a unified athletic program for athletes with challenges.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Desiree Keegan and Gordon M. Grant*

Good game coverage! The best elements are observations and reactions from the participants, not just the coaches. And some healthy stories for adults make athletes of us all. Nice golf column if you're a celebrity.

## SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Grant Parpan, Kate Nalepinski, Steve Wick and Tara Smith*  
Amazing tribute to Detective Simonsen. Excellent team effort, well-written and well-sourced stories, amazing photography/presentation. This newspaper clearly rose to the challenge - on deadline - and delivered.

#### SECOND PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo  
*Ben Beagle and Matt Surtel*  
Excellent coverage of such a tragic event. Follow-up stories are solid, especially the respectful tribute to the four teens who died. The fact that you did this on deadline is remarkable. Kudos. This is why community newspapers matter.

#### THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake  
*Elizabeth Izzo*  
Well done - the story with Chelsea Walker's perspective added the right touch to the package. Kudos for capturing a photo of the burning lodge.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Chelsea Diana*  
The story conveyed the sense of uncertainty and disbelief that these employees and businesses were facing.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

Freeport Herald Leader, Freeport  
*Briana Bonfiglio, Christina Daly, Nadya Nataly, Anthony Rifilato and Darwin Yanes*  
Congratulations to a dedicated team that insisted on journalism more impactful than video clips and sensational headlines ripe for social media and judgmental commentary. Diligent, uncompromising, steady and focused, the newspaper produced the quality journalism essential for a community to fully comprehend such a brutal murder of a neighborhood high school senior committed in broad daylight.

#### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton  
*Taylor K. Vecsey*  
Top notch reporting with excellent coverage of the event from personal perspectives. Fine work in a competitive field of entries.

#### THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton  
*Elizabeth Vespe*  
Solid reporting of mysterious murder.

### DIVISION 3

#### FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown  
*Craig Fox and Abraham Kenmore*  
Solid and detailed reporting of a horrible tragedy written with compassion and respect.

#### SECOND PLACE

Bayside Times, Queens  
*Mark Hallum*  
Tragedy from friendly fire is difficult reporting. The writer covered this breaking news story with clear orderly precision.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*T.E. McMorrow*  
Comprehensive coverage included police reports, time of day, road conditions and detailed information about the victim and the driver. Tightly written, compelling narrative. Great reporting and writing.

## NEWS STORY

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

Warsaw's Country Courier, Warsaw  
*Natalie Muster*  
Well detailed, sourced, researched and developed. Reflects the community's values and position. Good job.

#### SECOND PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester  
*Sarah Wolpoff*  
Thorough, good sourcing and reaching all sides; well developed, researched and written.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
Well written, timely, well sourced for a difficult story to research, develop and write. Well done.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Sun & Record, Williamson  
*Josh Faulks and John Addyman*  
Good coverage of an important tragedy; well sourced, researched and developed.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Cornwall Local, Cornwall  
*Jason Kaplan*  
Top five story; important topic; wanted more of an emphasis on her job in news.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach  
*Valerie Gordon*  
A poignant story just waiting to be told. And it was told clearly and with passion. Fine work.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Cailin Riley*  
This piece is an example of wonderful storytelling. Excellent writing and research.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Margaret Osborne*  
Valuable research was included in this report that is relevant to community readers. Great work.

### DIVISION 3

#### FIRST PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale  
*Kirstyn Brendlen, Michael Hinman and Heather J. Smith*  
Multiple sources, wide-ranging viewpoints, solid facts and good writing make this a substantial story worth reading.

### SECOND PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale  
*Kirstyn Brendlen*  
A nicely written, well researched profile of a school dealing with disturbing news. You really feel the sadness mixed with social realities and the deliberate steps officials took to reclaim confidence and trust.

### THIRD PLACE

Sea Cliff Glen Head Herald Gazette, Glen Cove  
*Laura Lane*  
Well written and emotionally compelling, this story lays out an obvious miscalculation by the state on who deserves compensation for responding to the World Trade Center disaster. Nicely done.

### DIVISION 4

#### FIRST PLACE

Queens Examiner, Queens  
*Benjamin Fang*  
Interesting story, especially for a judge from Washington state, home of Amazon.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown  
*David Ambro*  
A great tribute to a man who was obviously well-liked and effective in his job.

#### THIRD PLACE

Queens Ledger, Queens  
*Benjamin Fang*  
Would have liked comments from impacted business owners to be higher in the story but overall, it was a great effort.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Smithtown News, Smithtown  
*David Ambro*  
Good effort on a story that impacts people nationwide.

### DIVISION 5

#### FIRST PLACE

Long Island Press, Syosset  
*Claude Solnik*  
Does good job of explaining the sales pitch for filtration systems and the perspective of water purveyors.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
*Jason Subik and John Cropley*  
Package presents a cogent explanation of the direct impacts of the school district's budget cuts.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Bridget LeRoy*  
The article informs and entertains readers about a local landmark.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Chronicle-Express, Penn Yan  
*John Christensen*  
Piece provides a primer for parents challenged by the conditions of their children.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Courier, Bayside  
*Mark Hallum and Carlotta Mohamed*  
Both series do a good job providing a lot of details.



# Best Sports Action Photo(s), 2019



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1  
JIM MACLEAN  
THE SCARSDALE INQUIRER**

“Great shot of the soccer player in flight for the save. Crisp focus overall, but especially like the player’s facial expression captured, and even detect the wind generated by his leap billowing through his uniform. Great photo of an athlete with great form.”

**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2  
RON ESPOSITO  
THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN**

“The photographer captures the feel of the event with a superb collage of images.”



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3  
TIM MARTIN  
REGISTER-STAR**

“Great airborne photo! Very impressive!”



# Excellence Awards

## FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Other Hudson Valley,  
Hudson

*Roger Hannigan Gilson*

All news is local news and this piece is a prime example of how to localize a nation-wide epidemic. The article explores the darkness of addiction and its larger impact on the state, from both a human perspective and a credible research-based perspective. The author included key sources, from the Department of Health to the local police chief, and skillfully tied in the compelling details of an individual facing addiction.

### SECOND PLACE

GreaterLongIsland.com,  
Patchogue

*Nicholas Esposito*

Esposito finds and shares the golden nugget of Port Jefferson with Hannaford's story. The article's strong lede ropes the reader in and breaks down her unique career switch with originality, detail and clarity.

### THIRD PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter,  
Shelter Island

*Ambrose Clancy*

This article thoughtfully explains the story behind the tragic and chaotic incident in Queens, providing readers with a glimpse behind the police badges. The article finds a meaningful local angle while using strong story development and descriptions to portray the emotions of Sgt. LeGrady.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid

*Andy Flynn*

It's not every day someone in Lake Placid turns 100, but when they do, the writer should cover their birthday party. This article conveys who Ruth Hart is, through the recounting of her birthday party and the historical moments of her life. Through a unique human-interest angle, the writer captures the originality of Hart.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and  
Albany County Post, Altamont

*Elizabeth Floyd Mair*

Heartwarming story of reunion includes a mystery and how it was solved.

### SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

*Todd Sliss*

Inspiring story about a woman's decision to withhold information about her illness from her children to give them a normal childhood, and the impacts of that decision, told in a bittersweet tone.

### THIRD PLACE

Westmore News, Port Chester

*Sarah Wolpoff*

The intersection of two histories — that of baseball and the service of a WWII veteran — are linked in this well-told story. The character of Alfred Vita jumps off the page in a fully formed 3D persona. Tied in with an upcoming event for timeliness and family connections makes this a well-rounded feature.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown

*Alison Rooney*

Nice story about Mr. Nice. (Kudos to whoever did the layout too!) Uplifting story of not only overcoming a life-changing brain injury, but actually creating a new artform out of his altered perception. Written with an engaging style.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany

*Michael DeMasi*

This story is expertly crafted, with great descriptions that put you at the scene while weaving business information around a compelling narrative of a family's dreams and efforts. You know you have a winner when you finish the story and wish there was more. Good job.

### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press,  
East Hampton

*Annette Hinkle*

A touching story of a famous cartoonist nearing the end of his life, how his family coped, and how his fans still support him. Tight writing, intimate details and an amazing illustration that says volumes make this a winner.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor

*Michelle Trauring*

This could have been a routine story, but the writer brought some heart to the effort. Beautifully written, emotional and authentic. Very nice job on an amazing enterprise.

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

The Yorktown News, Yorktown

*Brian Marschhauser*

Excellent watchdog story and public service in notifying the public about this fraudulent business.

### SECOND PLACE

North Salem News, North Salem

*Jodi Weinberger*

Fun story! I laughed out loud at the line "and, ya know, whether aliens built Balanced Rock!!!" I'm guessing this was one of your most popular stories of the year. Perfect story for your paper and community.

### THIRD PLACE

The Putnam Examiner, Putnam

*David Propper*

Wow. Fascinating story about how renowned slimeball Roger Ailes can even ruin a small town and a community newspaper.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Riverdale Press, Riverdale

*Michael Hinman*

Wow. All I can say is great story to coincide with the firebombing's anniversary. Considering the event happened in 1989, the details carry a degree of gravity and relevance to today's times.

DIVISION 5

### FIRST PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia

*Mallory Diefenbach*

The writer weaves the man's story seamlessly with others from the presentation, facts and the man's own story. It was a beautiful read and included a detailed, personal narrative of the part that many addiction and recovery stories don't include — childhood and the man's descent into using. The quotes and paraphrased bits were stitched together smoothly and were easy to read, which is not easy to do. What a fabulous and well-written story about an issue that affects so many communities, especially since this one had a positive ending.

SECOND PLACE

Eagle Bulletin, Fayetteville

*Jason Klaiber*

Jason's writing brings the reader into the mother's parlor where she writes her letters to her late son and her own late mother. The grieving process is not often spoken or written about often, and certainly not the actual things people do to cope in positive ways. I appreciate the writer's decision to write this woman's story and the sense of community it provides.

### THIRD PLACE

The Times of Smithtown  
Township, Smithtown

*Donna Deedy*

The story sheds light on an issue that affects many communities but takes it a step further by looking at some of the actual steps of recovery through perspectives on either side of the opioid epidemic. Including a former user's personal recovery story, and what medical professionals are taught about pain management and opioid misuse, in the context of explaining addiction recovery methods made this a strong piece.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Times of Middle Country,  
Centereach

*Laura Johanson*

This story touches on many different issues — farming, food banks, accessible spaces, loss — but it still feels cohesive. Although the main character in the story is one woman, the community is highlighted throughout the story.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Times of Middle Country,  
Centereach

*Rita J. Egan*

A nice, concise story about a man, who likely many people have seen but don't know all the details, and what he does to help his community. This story sheds light on an "ordinary" citizen's impact and the quote selection shows the reader the man's personality instead of just telling the reader.

DIVISION 6

### FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

*Kayla Breen*

This was a once-in-a-lifetime story that these students will remember their whole lives. The story flows well with a nice intro and setup. It made me want to hear all of the students' questions, so I watched the video. The info box was a nice touch. Writing about such a cool experience translates well, and it made me grin.

### SECOND PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown

*David Ambro*

The writer does a good job of transporting the reader to these hikers' experiences. I could imagine what they felt and their struggles. It left me wanting to see more. It was inspiring to see people of all ages make the trek. Good job!

### THIRD PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh

*Robin Caudell*

Author connects a national icon into the local writing scene with a purpose. The story has a lot of good quotes intertwined with biography. Good job!

### HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Champlain Weekly,  
Plattsburgh

*Benjamin Pomerance*

With limited time for an interview, the story does a good job of setting the circumstances, establishing a biography, setting up a future event, and using quotes from Shatner. An engaging read! Good job!

DIVISION 7

### FIRST PLACE

The Jewish Week, New York

*Steve Lipman*

This exceptional narrative bridges a huge cultural-religious-national gap and inspires a reader to wonder (reflect upon) how societal differences could be resolved without an inspirational war. Great reporting-sourcing-writing! This substantive examination of Muslim-Jewish collaboration in the spirit of humanity should be discovered, embraced and shared across our nation.

### SECOND PLACE

Manhasset Press, Manhasset

*Marco Schaden*

Weird, unusual, sensational, uplifting, revealing, personal: turning a robot into a human, and vice versa. A compelling story for readers, well written, well focused! It makes a solid connection.

### THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca

*Matt Butler*

Nicely written with a consistent focus on the central subject, this story should resonate with readers--addicts, recovering drug abusers, families affected by addictions, the general community in which this subject resides, and the professionals who confront this problem . . . and those who cause it, which itself should be a feature focus.

### HONORABLE MENTION

New York Law Journal, New York

*Jason Grant*

A great account of multi-year litigation steeped in acrimony, frustration, passion, and lots of money. And the final outcome remains even after a jury trial favored plaintiffs with millions of dollars in settlement. Appeals have set that outcome aside. Wish we could read the final story . . . if we're still alive. Good writing: sourcing mostly from plaintiffs, though defendant has space here via trial transcript.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Long Island Weekly, Mineola

*Rudy Malcom*

A very comprehensive news-feature reviewing a water quality report: reactions, actions, evaluation, analysis all with identifiable sourcing beyond just the report. Excellent writing, reporting and the series DID provide this reader with an understanding of its purpose!

## BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown

*Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong  
and Chip Rowe*

Really well written. Good sentence structure, no typos! Wonderful!

### SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown

*Victoria Shannon and Jeff Simms*

Really good and interesting article.

### THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

*Catherine Ferris*

Good, clean writing.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Record-Review, Bedford



# Thomas G. Butson Award for Investigative/In-Depth Reporting, 2019



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1  
MELISSA HALE-SPENCER  
THE ALTAMONT ENTERPRISE AND ALBANY COUNTY POST  
“You really drew me into this story, great detail.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2  
CHELSEA DIANA AND LIZ YOUNG  
ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

“A most thoroughly impressive account of how the idea for a jobs-producing high tech hub failed to deliver on its promises, despite the infusion of millions of dollars of public funds. A complex story artfully explained and detailed. In-depth and explanatory journalism at its best.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3  
BRETT YATES  
THE RED HOOK-STAR REVUE

“Thorough and clear reporting/writing. The lack of attribution struck me as freeing for the writer without sounding made up. You really knew how things work and what the issues are from a lot of angles.

I loved this line, which visually describes the business model: Insofar as we've accepted a retail model that, by standard practice, whenever someone wants to buy a box of toothpicks, immediately sends a truck to deliver those toothpicks directly to the buyer's doorstep instead of asking him to walk a few blocks to a store, last-mile distribution centers must exist.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4  
KIM VELSEY  
THE INDEPENDENT

“Your opening profile painted a nostalgic past and brought us to the present with a tearful moment of Fiore accepting her fate. The article went on to many poignant examples, each offering many facets of this problem. The story was filled with empathy, frustration and hope. Incredible well-sourced reporting and compelling writing made eight pages extremely readable.”



**THOMAS G. BUTSON**  
This is the third year for the Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting. The award was established by Elizabeth M. Butson, former co-publisher of *The Villager* and *Downtown Express*, in memory of her late husband, who was a retired *New York Times* assistant news editor, former managing editor of the *Toronto Star*, and editor of *The Villager* and *Downtown Express*.





# Excellence Awards

## BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence  
Edgy, well-researched, well-written, polished, just excellent. Congratulations.

### SECOND PLACE

The Daily Star, Oneonta  
*Sarah Eames*  
REALLY WELL WRITTEN.  
Very interesting, moves along nicely, no typos – well done!

### THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Chelsea Diana*  
Really well written. Great job!

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Shinnecock: Well written, very clean, informative.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh  
A powerful series, with outstanding writing. The lead story contrasting the two cases is excellent; the interview with Zander's mother, who is a tragically eloquent lantern bearer through the terrible experience, is searing. The writer lets her speak and creates the necessary narrative links between quotes with an expert hand to keep the story moving. The sidebar hits the perfect note and, in this case, the screen works. The story "Language can mean Life or Death" is superb. The reader is in the hands of a real story teller. The series contains some great photos, strong writing, urgent facts. It's thorough, maybe over-thorough, but respects the intelligence of the reader. Bonus points here for ambition, which was considerable.

### SECOND PLACE

The Times of Huntington, Huntington  
*Donna Deedy and David Luces*  
Really good, solid reporting on an unfolding issue critical to the community — bad air in a middle school. Events begin with a sickout and evolve until it turns out a bus depot and refueling station are nearby. Not everyone was aware of that fact. The coverage has the right proportionality in terms of importance; the headlines don't hype but hit the right notes. Someone from out of town with no interest in the issue could easily be drawn into the various stories. If I were a parent in the community, I would have confidence my newspaper was doing its job.

### THIRD PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia  
*Scott DeSmit, John Anderson and Brian Quinn*  
Rats will always be with us, as will social media, most likely. The pairing makes for a combustible combination. Solid reporting on a local restaurant's infestation, and exposure on Facebook. Which led to the health department's performance in the mix, and public records access. The Daily News followed the unfolding story with clarity and interesting detail.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Northport Observer, Northport  
*David Ambro*

Epic coverage, indeed. A story about a deputy mayor who built his home outside of approved specifications turned into a human drama as deputy mayor Kehoe proved to be averse to facts. No huge surprise, then, when he surfaces in the last of more than a dozen installments doing a turn on talk radio. The stories reflect careful reporting. The editorials are unafraid, serving as a Greek chorus pointing out the factual record. Helping to balance the scales, three former mayors wrote a letter to the editor essentially backing up what was contained in the reporting. The public was well-served in terms of being able to know what was going on.

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens  
*David Russell and Michael Gannon*  
An exploration of high suicide rates within the NYPD starts out with the story of a beloved and respected deputy chief who shot himself the day after filing mandatory retirement papers at age 63. Quotes from colleagues provide portray the kind of man one would least expect to take his own life. The next installment focuses on perceived lack of internal support from NYPD, drawing on the perspectives of relatives and colleagues of suicide victims, followed by an examination of the current epidemic vs a similar one in the 1990s — what's changed, what needs to. The writing is strong all the way; a serious subject gets proper and professional treatment. It's hard to imagine how this could have been done any better.

### SECOND PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx  
*David Cruz, Joseph Konig and José A. Giralt*  
Outstanding. The coverage of is thorough, fair and professional. The front page presentations with photos are strong and attention getting without being over-the-top. Some opening paragraphs could have been handled differently: In the first installment the opening is clogged with too much information. Simplify. Punch it up. Why not start out with something like: "They are finally going to be heard." And move into the rest as written. The same goes with the opening to the "Super" installment. Still, this is a stellar series doing what newspapers are supposed to do: Report fairly and factually, tell the stories and make a difference. Clearly, this is an editor and a newsroom, under-resourced as they are, that takes the mission seriously. Bravo!

### THIRD PLACE

Our Town (NYC), New York  
*Doug Feiden*  
An terrific series, told in vivid, descriptive terms by a writer in command of his materials and a deep appreciation for the subject matter. The writer's knowledge and the passion behind it come through. Here's a masterful touch: "This is a story about relics, religion and real estate. It's about parking garages, preservation and a passion for lost causes." An absolutely convincing story about an architectural relic that involves more than a building, but values and what a community values, in the face-off economic pressures.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Westbury Times, Westbury  
*Frank Rizzo*  
The writer is a pro. Great opening sentence to the series, which would pull almost any reader in. He also has a deft touch in terms of conveying facts and figures and keeping the story interesting. A real pleasure to read Good, strong photographs of the students keep it personable and human. Well done.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Chronicle, Queens  
*Michael Gannon*  
"Our stomach's empty; there it all begins," goes one of Bertolt Brecht's lyrics from "The Three Penny Opera." This series examines hunger in the Borough of Queens from multiple angles with excellent reporting that shatters stereotypes about who needs help. "Many of these people own their own homes," says one provider. "They have jobs." On the rounds with a Citymeals on Wheels provider, the writer puts the reader there: "Most residents greet Flores warmly. Some just say 'thank you.'" Others, it turns out, are more effusive. The series ends with a look at a municipal pilot program to help low-income residents put fruits and vegetables on the table — a good sign-off.

## BEST OBITUARIES

### FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake  
*Elizabeth Izzo and Aaron Cerbone*  
These are very good: detailed, specific, present tense, active, alive, giving a full and total sense of a well-lived life.

### SECOND PLACE

The Jewish Week, New York  
*Steve Lipman and Sandee Brawarsky*  
These are very good: detailed, specific, present tense, active, alive, giving a full and total sense of a well-lived life in each case. The personal touch fits. Hard to distinguish beyond first place this year.

### THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon  
*Fred Stabbert III*  
These are very good: detailed, specific, present tense, active, alive, giving a full and total sense of a well-lived life. Extensive and priority coverage given highlights the commitment of the community to the individuals and individuals to the community. Hard to distinguish beyond first place this year.

## EDITORIALS

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake  
*Peter Crowley*  
Difficult as it is to sort and judge numerous editorials about matters, I have very little information about, and admittedly little interest in, I came back to these editorials after plowing through many poorly written, poorly edited, verbose and meandering editorials. Once I settled in for the medium length read, I was delighted to read the context within the comments.

### SECOND PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid  
*Andy Flynn*  
Editorials cover unusual topics but ones pertinent to residents of Lake Placid.

### THIRD PLACE

Islip Bulletin, Bayshore  
*Liz Finnegan*  
The crisp writing provides readers a clear picture of the various issues.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
*Melissa Hale-Spencer*  
The in-depth analysis of very personal experiences really draws the reader in.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Examiner, Mount Kisco  
*Martin Wilbur*  
Strong evidence of local official and calling out statewide organization for its abuse of power and inappropriate involvement and criticism. While maintaining a local focus offers a mirror of devolved state of politics in the culture. Standing up and naming a wrong. Ending quietion speaks to the erosion of democracy that these actions further.

### SECOND PLACE

The Northport Observer, Northport  
*David Ambro*  
For the editorial "Del Vino debacle" — Championing the local community/neighborhood and calling out the bad faith actions of the 'vineyard' and calling for specific reform/change while acknowledging the likely continuation of the status quo. Shows sensitivity to the people affected while taking a strong stance against the company. The "Kehoe" editorial is similarly strong, forcefully calling out wrongdoing and advocating for action to be taken.

### THIRD PLACE

The Smithtown News, Smithtown  
*David Ambro*  
Strong suite of editorials showing concern for and championing the needs of the community and region. The comprehensive assessment of problems and players for the "Kings Park sewer" editorial and the call to action among the various parties, however strong or weak a role they might have shown an emphasis and understanding of people and place, including timing and the limits of governments to resolve crises in a timely manner.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Examiner, Mount Kisco  
*Martin Wilbur*  
Strong advocacy and defense of the community and calling out incompetence by firm. And also calling for action and resolution.



# Sharon R. Fulmer Award for Community Leadership, 2019

## FIRST PLACE — THE POST-STANDARD

KAREN SHERWOOD - Campaign, JOANNE COUGHLIN WALSH - Covers, TOM BROWN - Director of Circulation Operations

### 'Old Newsboys' Hope for the Holidays Christmas Fundraiser Campaign

"Wow. Just wow. Great example of community leadership. Raising \$47,000 is no small feat and this entries shows just how it can be done. Leadership is the common thread throughout the entire entry, with the accompanying letter explaining how staffers raised the money. And attached brochures and promotional materials go above and beyond the other entries. *The Post Standard* even had a mascot for the effort. Great job."

*The Post-Standard* has led community groups and individuals in this annual fundraising drive since the 1930s. Each year, we line up dozens of groups (such as Kiwanis, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Rotary, Syracuse Crunch hockey team, etc.) and hundreds of individuals as volunteers to "sell" special editions of *The Post-Standard* on street corners, in malls, at gas stations and convenience stores, downtown sidewalks and more. All of the money raised goes to the Salvation Army/United Way's annual Christmas Bureau.

Post-Standard employees participate as well "selling" the special editions in early December (this year Dec. 6 and 7), and helping to give out toys and food baskets to needy families on distribution day (Dec. 13).

Last year's drive raised \$47,000. This year's drive was a similar success, and raised a similar amount, final numbers still to come. With this award

recognizing community leadership, it can't be stressed enough the role *The Post-Standard* plays in leading this project, with our own employees (participating ourselves) and as importantly leading members of the community, in this project that helps members of our community.

Our leadership includes articles, ads, outreach, organization and when needed motivation and inspiration. Of course, we also print and donate the special editions of *The Post-Standard*. The result is thousands of children and families have a nicer Christmas than they otherwise would have.

Entry submission: quarter page ad, full page ad, digital display ads, editorial, pages from the special editions Dec, 6 and 7, social media posts, and marketing materials for business partners and volunteers.



## 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. The award is presented with a stipend for the winner to donate to the community service project of his/her choice.



# Excellence Awards

## EDITORIALS

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Gay City News, New York  
*Paul Schindler*

Strong suite of editorials, all specific, focused, well-reasoned, with strong values and causes laid out for the reader. The Unfair Sentencing editorial strongly advocates for justice, is sensitive to the individual, and makes the case that justice was not served.

### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach  
"Button Boondoggle" This editorial pays attention to the needs of the community for governance accountability and reflection on decision making, program effectiveness and fiscal responsibility. It supports a minority viewpoint in another part of the county. It is helping the community pay attention to the reality of their surroundings. All the editorials are well written and reasoned. They show a breadth of focus and emphasis, just as important issues occur across the spectrum.

### THIRD PLACE

Hicksville Illustrated News, Hicksville  
*Kimberly Dijkstra*  
"Hung Out To Dry" and "Concentrate," as with all her editorials, display a compassionate and sensitive soul drawing attention to suffering brought on by deliberate actions and our tax dollars at work. The paper is to be commended for taking strong stands on national issues, knowing, as it must, that some readers strongly disagree. The local newspaper helps its community when it engages them as citizens of the nation and the world as well as their locale.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Hicksville Illustrated News, Hicksville  
*Kimberly Dijkstra*  
Good job in bringing attention to environmental issues near and far and pointing to actions citizens can take to involve themselves toward solutions.

## BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Steve Wick*

Your bold columns shine a light on big, dark global issues at home. We're surprised that slavery still exists, sexual abuse still thrives in high places and white supremacy is still publicly honored. Why are we surprised? — these things never stopped.

### SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown  
*Chip Rowe*  
Why I Flipped on Secrecy, Code of Conduct, Why No Room Tax. You draw the reader in with questions, humor and a personal take on local issues. The articles made technical understandable and interesting. I particularly liked the twist at the end of Why I Flipped on Secrecy.

### THIRD PLACE

The Daily Star, Oneonta  
*Denielle Cazzolla*

These articles touch on things close to home in easy, conversational language. The statistics in the column about early start for teens really backed up your argument and added to what I already knew. The tips on giving tips to newspapers was so valuable to your readers. People don't understand that reporters can't investigate their personal issues or cover rumors.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring  
*Douglas Cunningham*  
Timely and topical, these columns put an important issue in perspective and follows up. Well written with attitude.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket  
*Leah Dunaief*

Your experience in "Balancing a career and motherhood" painted a picture of how it was, how things have changed. And yet so much is the same. It takes two incomes. "Women's Soccer" pulled together a lot of layers and gave the message depth. Your experience added authority. These two columns were great.

### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton  
*Carlos Sandoval*

Hats off to this columnist for using his voice as a call to action — thoughtful, insightful, passionate writing to inform and influence.

### THIRD PLACE

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick  
*Scott Brinton*

This is a writer who takes his journalism personally, relating to his subjects, telling their stories passionately and gratefully. His storytelling is compassionate and introspective — his columns are a good read.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Mahopac News, Mahopac  
*Bob Dumas*

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
*Charley Githler*

Sharp commentary on local spin on larger context is hilarious when morphed into a tax form, thank you notes and multiple answer quiz.

### SECOND PLACE

North Country This Week, Potsdam  
*Bill Shumway*

Green newspapers, news shutdown/evolution, hold the presses for breaking news — nice trio looks into the changing newspaper business both locally and globally. These columns give readers an understanding of what it takes to bring them news these days.

### THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Anthony Brandt*

Your writing swept me along and I learned new things about old topics, freshened up with the present. You offered strong opinions and made your case very well with abortion laws being illegal as religious interference in politics - the strongest of the three submissions. Your nostalgia over sea food knowing it's too late to change climate change was bittersweet. The past is a foreign country was an enjoyable trip.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Jewish Week, New York  
*Andrew Silow-Carroll*

## EDITORIAL CARTOON

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island  
*Peter Waldner*

A hilarious angle on a vexing modern problem shows texting at its most ludicrous. Handsome artwork and interesting characters. You hit the humor target with an economy of words.

### SECOND PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island  
*Peter Waldner*

This is topical since ticks are in the news more now, hunting humans. This cartoon puts a humorous spin on it.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
*Peter Waldner*

The relationships between your characters show. A lot of people feel the same about the news, but can't get away from it, which makes this funny, along with the man's entertainment choices. Youngsters might not get this one, but after some years, they will be in the same boat.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont  
*Carol Coogan*

Big message with no words. Each bird is well-drawn and easily identifiable. To me, it seems more like an illustration than a cartoon.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Karen Fredericks*

The pun cracked me up. The cartoon brings out the humor in a serious topic. The art style is clean and quirky.

### SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Karen Fredericks*

This joke is so classic, I thought it must have already been done. However, I didn't find it on the web.

### THIRD PLACE

The Wave, Queens  
*Thomas Kerr*

Evocative illustrations of the editorials.

## BEST USE OF VIDEO

### FIRST PLACE

GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue  
*Andrew Theodorakis and Ryan Honan*

I enjoyed this video immensely. The restaurant owners seemed real and natural and not forced. The customer base/clientele seemed really natural as well, and not like the business just went and grabbed people off the street to make a video. The video flowed smoothly and presented a wide variety of classic Italian dishes and was very pleasing to the eye. After watching the video, I would be willing to go the restaurant if I was near that location.

### SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Joe Werkmeister*

Beautifully done video. Made me tear-up for the family's loss, and for the friends of the fallen soldier, Tech. Sgt. Briggs. Very nice that he was nominated as News-Review's 2018 Public Servant of the Year. Nicely done, great background info of who he was and the fact that he died doing what he loved, and he will be forever remembered.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Jason Nower*

Absolutely stunning video. Great music, nice looking people, fancy-looking food and wine/champagne in a warm, relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Excellent job.

### HONORABLE MENTION

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

If I had the option to give this video a fourth place instead of honorable mention, I would. This video was amazing. You got to hear many different people in different aspects of the special Olympics, including volunteers, parents, and people with disabilities. It goes to show that you can't judge a book by its cover. This video made me tear-up and smile at the same time. Good job.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Batavian, Batavia  
*Howard Owens*

Amazing video about classic hot rods and vehicle enthusiast at 14th year of the Hardcore Happening. Awesome cars and neat seeing what the vehicles can do and about the distances people will travel to the event. nicely done video, real people. Overall, great job.

## BEST ONLINE STATIC AD

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Great effects on the tortilla.

### SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Steven Dorney*  
Great idea to stick a fork in the ground. Very creative!

### THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Kayden Fitzgerald*  
Great design! Nice colors.



# Richard L. Stein Award for Overall Design Excellence, 2019

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1  
THE INDEPENDENT

“Excellent layout and design, easy to read and ads are well done.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2  
THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN

“Great layout and design on each page. Photography and ad design exceptional.  
Kudos to your team.”



## 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.





# Excellence Awards

## BEST ONLINE STATIC AD

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Times Union, Albany  
*Jeremy Schoonmaker*  
Great use of photos.

### SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
Great design!

### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown  
*Rick Gaskin*  
Very eye-catching and creative with the heartbeat line.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Lea Gonyea*  
Great design!

## BEST ONLINE DYNAMIC

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Steven Dorney*  
Very easy to follow.

### SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Kayden Fitzgerald*  
You can feel the breeze from the fan.  
Great use of colors.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Ty Wenzel*

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
Great plane animation!

### SECOND PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Steve LaRowe*  
Very eye-catching and not too text heavy.

### THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
Simple and clean. Good play on words.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Kayleigh Tarbet*  
Like the animation of the Ferris wheel to connect readers to the Fair and kids.

## BEST CONQUESTED TARGET E-MAIL

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Great imagery! Very eye-catching and also easy to follow the headlines.

### SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Great Halloween design! Very interesting look!

### THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Got my attention very fast.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Lea Gonyea*  
Great opening animation!  
Very eye-catching!

### SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Kayleigh Tarbet*  
Powerful graphic, easy to navigate tool for driving prospects to the site.

## BEST ONLINE NEWS PROJECT OR PRESENTATION

### FIRST PLACE

The Jewish Week, New York  
*Miriam Groner*  
A delightfully engaging profile, enhanced by good photography and videos, of an unusual artist and intriguing personality. The reporter becomes the storyteller without injecting herself into the story.

### SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter,  
Narrowsburg  
A hip trip revisiting a legendary event ... stories, photos and audio create a sense of the experience for those who weren't there, as told by those who were.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Ty Wenzel and Jessica Mackin-Cipro*  
Colorful, engaging, information packed. I'd read it every week.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
*Edwin J. Viera*  
Accessible, current and useful. An appealing summary of the day.

## FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Daily Star, Oneonta  
*Sarah Eames*  
This photo represents a moment in time, a moment in these boys' lives, yet also portrays a "blast to the past" feel. Composition wise, the image perfectly represents the rules of thirds with the three boys, each with their own similarities and unique pose differences, along with the top and bottom halves of the photo draws the viewer's eye straight to the subjects. The rarity of the moment captured, three kids entirely engaged in reality around them, is striking. The longer one looks at this picture, the more unusual details begin to reveal themselves and the more questions surrounding the moment begin to arise.

### SECOND PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise,  
Hastings-on-Hudson  
*Tim Lamorte*  
This stunning image includes attention-grabbing pops of color, strong subject framing, and captures the creative energy and essence of the subject.

### THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown  
*Michael Turton*  
A horse? In the house? This image is able to stand alone and make a viewer think, wonder and question what is going on. The rarity of this picture piques interest and tells a story all at once.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
*Jim MacLean*  
This photo captures the excitement of a carnival ride. The blurred and vividly colorful scene conveys the thrill of the ride, yet also focuses in solely on the joy of the kids' experience.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Colonie-Loudonville Spotlight,  
Colonie  
*Jim Franco*  
The photo captures the boy's excitement and amazement.

### SECOND PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway  
*Katie McFadden*  
Capturing the essence of a community event from sea to sky: what a grand, focused image to enlighten this newspaper's audience and commemorate a centennial event.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor  
*Michael Heller*  
A soft, comfortable image of bay life in action. Just a nice visual impression of a scene in context.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway  
*Katie McFadden*  
A montage of hate written in this community's sandy shore. A good composition delivering the message without the mongers.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Kyril Bromley*  
Terrific expressions here evoke the power of competitive spirit... mostly spirit, indeed. Very good, tightly focused scene makes a stunning result.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown  
*Julia Hopkins*  
A lovely shot! Close up and personal in a way that pulls the viewer in.

### SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
*Marc Schultz*  
Nice action! A great use of color and expression as well as timing.

### THIRD PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
*Marc Schultz*  
Not only is the composition great, the color and action bring the locale to life.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Norwood News, Bronx  
*Adi Talwar*  
Fantastic expression that conveys the tone of the story.

## SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
*Jim MacLean*  
Great shot of the soccer player in flight for the save. Crisp focus overall, but especially like the player's facial expression captured, and even detect the wind generated by his leap billowing through his uniform. Great photo of an athlete with great form.

### SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Robert O'Rourke*  
Nice clean, uncluttered shot of the cleats on the baseman and his jump in response. Add to that the fact the action, clearly captured, was part of a contentious call on the field. I only wish I could see the expression of the base runner, to see if I could detect malice.

### THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,  
Saranac Lake  
*Lou Reuter*  
Though some believe golf and action is an oxymoron, this shot captures attention in a surprising way. Nice focus on player's face, his iron, and the ball in flight.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Ron Esposito*  
The photographer captures the feel of the event with a superb collage of images.

### SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar  
*Jim Franco*  
The intensity of competition is fully expressed through this great action photo.

### THIRD PLACE

The Examiner, Mount Kisco  
*Andy Jacobs*  
The photo helps to illustrate and illuminate what many people love about the sport of wrestling.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Tim Martin*  
Great airborne photo! Very impressive!

### SECOND PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Tim Martin*  
Great tackle! Caught my attention!

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Gordon M. Grant*  
Great energy.



# Best Small Space Ad, 2019



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1  
JACKIE SZARAFIN  
AMHERST BEE

“Simplicity makes the ad stand out from others. Attractive pup photos will always draw the reader’s eye.”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2  
SHARON NICHOLSON  
THE VILLAGE TIMES HERALD

“The simple messaging and artwork are appropriate for what I believe (from its advertising) is a homey, rustic store. It stands out on the page which is what you want!”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3  
DAN’S PAPERS

“The colors and the logo make it stand out. Nice job.”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4  
ANNE ALLIS  
FINGER LAKES TIMES

“Nice and clean. Very creative.”



# Excellence Awards

## SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Rich Barnes*

Fun photo. Great expressions on all of their faces. Even the water droplets are in sharp focus. Very nice.

### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Michael Heller*

Love the low angle. Nice job getting the horse's face despite the back lighting from the sky. Very enjoyable.

### THIRD PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald,  
Rockville Centre

*Brian Ballweg*

Great expressions. Great color and sharpness. Love their faces.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
*Jim MacLean*

I really see his joy in winning the state title.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia  
*Mark Gutman*

Wonderful capture of the spectators' surprise and delight during play of America's favorite summertime game.

### SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Gordon M. Grant*

What's more fun to photograph than a human pileup after winning a championship. It's a nice expression of exhilaration and joy by the players. I wish the photographer had been able to capture the top player's arm in the shot, but that's a minor quibble.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Desirée Keegan*

It's always fun to see the happy smiles of youngsters after they achieve a lofty goal! Nice catch by the photographer.

## ART PHOTO

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Donna Abbott-Vlahos*

I love the abstract look, and it caught my eye, as it looked like a puzzle. Very creative.

### SECOND PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway  
*Katie McFadden*

I think this is so beautiful. Not only is the picture breathtaking, the sun reflecting on Dawn of a New Decade looks like the colors are literally blending. Brilliant. And the foamy water makes me want to put my feet right in. This should be in a frame!

### THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Jeremy Garretson*

OOOh! I love lightning and I love the colors in this. All the textures and different shades of color are breathtaking. I'm looking for Jesus to come!!

### HONORABLE MENTION

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
*Joed Viera*

I like how this is down-to-earth, even though there are bright lights around. It actually looks like a TIME magazine cover. The focus and details on the person are spot on.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Villager (NYC), New York  
*Bob Krasner*

Vibrant stylized colors, perfect timing on the shot and cropping that both focuses attention on the action and sets the mood with context come together for a very arty composition in this category.

### SECOND PLACE

The Village Times Herald,  
Setauket

*Jay Gao*

Perfectly timed, stop-action shows every feather, talon and twig in sharp detail. The contrast of foreground and brilliant blue sky immediately draws the viewer into the picture and allows us to "get it" right away. (The moon appearing like an extra egg landing in the nest as the bird lands.) Engaging composition.

### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown

*Christopher Lenney*

Intriguing aerial perspective capturing the moment of the launch of this event. Lighting gives a pleasing hue to the blues and greens and the misty patches help set the scene.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Irene Tully*

The vignette shading and rich golds combine nicely with the sharp focus details of the seeds and bees going about their work.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Village Times Herald,  
Setauket

*F.J. Buncke*

Catching the water ballet of this bird seemingly walking on water, dramatically posed, in strong contrast with the shimmering waters makes for a pleasing composition.

## PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid  
*Elizabeth Izzo*

A black-and-white photo essay for first place? Absolutely. B/W is hard to do well these days, but this engaging collection has it all ... sharp images, variety of composition, a range of expressions and actions, sense of place and mood. There is nothing forced about these images, so each feel like the real essence of a captured moment. The bubbles-and-umbrella pic would be a stand-alone prizewinner.

### SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Michael DeMasi*

Well-paced chronological, single-subject storytelling that captures the mundane reality of the landlord's day without losing visual momentum. Good variety of composition. Great access to be sure, but clearly the subject was put at ease by the photographer and so she comes across as a real person, rather than someone who knows the camera is there.

### THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Bill Landon*

You don't need a lot of photos for an effective essay, and this entry proves the point. Action and expression are expertly captured with crisp imagery. The photog was patient and attentive for just the right shot, and it paid off.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Rivertowns Enterprise,  
Hastings-on-Hudson

*Tim Lamorte*

I am absolutely charmed by this well-conceived and beautifully executed photo story. It's conceptually simple – take the same shot from the same place – but difficult to pull off and keep things interesting. Seemingly casual but precise imagery keeps you moving from shot to shot, each of which suggests its own story. Has a very nostalgic feel of another place and time, transported to the present. It is, indeed, "An American Parade." If you don't know what that means, this essay will educate you.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Michael Heller*

With brilliant color, sharp focus, good composition and real emotion, this was clearly the first-place entry.

### SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor

*Michael Heller*

This entry uses good vantage points and nice light and captures unstaged moments. Tells the story of the music festival well.

### THIRD PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh  
*Kayla Breen*

Nice layout, brilliant color. Hard to go wrong with hot air balloons and a blue sky.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Gordon M. Grant*

The change of perspectives and the interplay of foreground and background really show that this photographer knows what he's doing and does it well. Each photo pushes the story further and captures the musical performance without having to over-describe in the text. This is done well – and is more impressive since it was done indoors.

### SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Wil Weiss*

These photos are beautiful. I like the play of perspectives, color, movement, and expression. Each photo adds something new to the piece and while they overlap, they are not repetitive. The use of color is lovely.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Justin Meinken*

These photos are beautiful. There is so much color and movement for the eye to look at, and they highlight a community not often seen in the media. The description is concise and lets the photos take center stage.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Times Newsweekly, Queens

There is a nice variety of events included in this submission. I appreciate how many people from the community were featured in the photos at each event. It looks like it was a fun year.

## SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Long Island Advance, Patchogue  
*Linda Leuzzi and Mark MacNish*

Great photo, and great work by the designer to make that photo pop out. The photographer really captured emotion in this photo.

### SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
*Jim MacLean*

Great moment captured by the photographer. There's interesting contrast in the photo with the ice and the firefighter, and the moment and emotion from the sitting first responder tells the story.

### THIRD PLACE

The Columbia Paper, Ghent  
*David Lee*

Great timing and composition in this photo. It's well-balanced and the ladder perfectly intersects the shot – not sure if it was cropped this way or shot this way, but either way, the photo is well done.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Joe Werkmeister*

Good emotion captures in these well-composed photos.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor  
*Michael Heller*

A brilliantly composed photo stands above the rest in a competitive class.

### SECOND PLACE

The Village Beacon-Record,  
Miller Place  
*Kyle Barr*

This photo conveys exuberance and pain at the same time. Excellent timing, focus and composition makes this a great photo. Nice work.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor  
*Michael Heller*

Excellent photo, particularly illustrative to the loss of life from opioid addiction and the particular sense of isolation felt by grieving families.

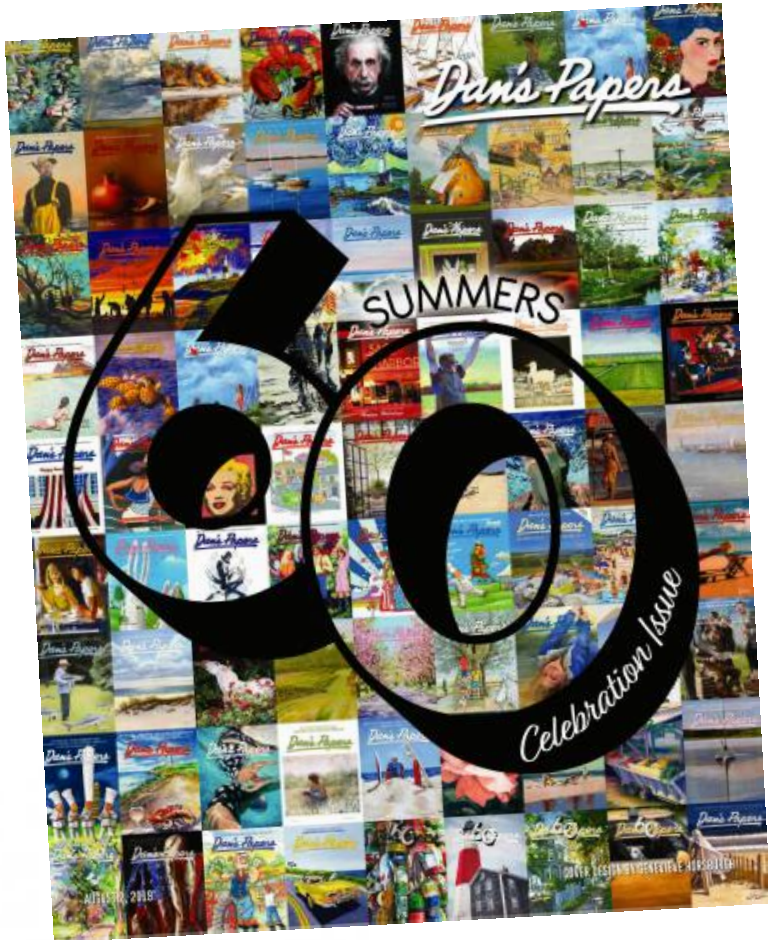
### HONORABLE MENTION

Valley Stream Herald,  
Valley Stream  
*Sue Grieco*

This is an amazing photo, but in a very competitive category. It was a shame the image was cropped in the print edition as the photo was stronger without cropping.



# Innovative Ad Project, 2019



## FIRST PLACE — DAN'S PAPERS

“What an ambitious project! Some might ask what’s so innovative about a newspaper putting out a tab to celebrate a milestone anniversary. Well, anyone who has read the project description - or has heard it read out at the awards ceremony - can see that the innovation is in the degree which Dan’s Papers has taken this basic concept. The long range planning and thoughtfulness for audience interest are apparent. The writing rich and creative yet sprinkled generously with humor. Tantalizing bits about hoax stories, brushes with fame, covers featuring acclaimed artists, cartoons and a once-in-an-80-year-so-far-lifetime interview with the founder are eyeball magnets. Advertisers are treated as partners in producing the project, with revenues exceeding the \$200k goal by 35% as testament to the appeal to them. Tied in with a gala event and a portion of the proceeds donated to a local nonprofit which benefits many local charities put a nice bow on the entire package. Way to put an innovative spin on an anniversary tab.”



Weekly Bowl Watch

## THIRD PLACE — THE POST-STANDARD

“Great way to tie in video/web to promote the newspaper’s sports products. Excellent production value, and a real sense of the paper’s involvement with local sports.”



## SECOND PLACE — THE RIVER REPORTER

“Very clever way to capitalize on the global appeal of Woodstock during its 50th anniversary celebration. Each card being sold to an advertiser on something as universally appealing as a deck of playing cards gives their recognition the longevity of a treasured keepsake. Every aspect of the production was well thought out, from the design of the cards themselves, to the packaging, to the point-of-purchase display materials, to the promotion of the cards. Groovy!”



## HONORABLE MENTION — AMHERST BEE

“Nice innovative touch tying in the holiday theme by having all the pets’ photos required to feature some holiday aspect (in costume, with Santa, by the tree, etc.) Cute pet photos, sure to have attracted lots of eyeballs. The only thing I would have liked to have seen, to give it more local appeal, would be to have at least the pets’ owners’ names listed with the pet names, rather than on the next page (as it mentions in the small type). Otherwise, nice promo.”



# Excellence Awards

## SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Gordon M. Grant*  
Excellent photo, particularly strong due to the angle in which it was taken. The foreshortening is incredible.

### SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*T.E. McMorrow*  
Strong photo that depicts real happenings that are not seen every day.

### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown  
*Sydney Schaefer*  
It feels so real. The smoke, the crisp vividness makes the you feel like you are witnessing the blaze.

## GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown  
*Deb Lucke*  
Not only was this a great illustration, it also served as a great storytelling device. I would have never thought to use a comic to report on an event — very creative. A fun art style and use of humor made this the top entry. Fantastic job.

### SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Kristina Walser*  
Great use of a watercolor effect and background cutouts to bring this illustration to life in an interesting and creative way. Nice work by the designer.

### THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-  
Eastern Edition, Southampton  
*Michael Pintauro*  
A fun take and charming artwork makes this entry stand out in a competitive field. Great color and humor. Nice work.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Fire Island News, Fire Island  
*Lauren Stevens*  
Great idea and excellent illustration. I would like to print this out and color it myself! Very creative idea.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Garden City Life, Garden City  
*Cathy Bongiorno*  
This double-page spread is outstanding. The treatment using the sepia tones truly gives the feel of 150-year timeline. The styling of the parchment paired with the vintage photos and their frames really give the flavor to this piece.

### SECOND PLACE

The Wave, Queens  
*Paula DiGioia*  
These maps are incredibly well done. The illustrative design of scatter icons to depict all of the hot spots of interest in the communities is brilliant and would definitely be informative for both those who live in or are visiting.

### THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
*Marshall Hopkins*  
These great original illustrations really add character to the sidebars. The quality of drawings and the technique of the coloring is very consistent with each. Very impressive.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Our Town (NYC), New York  
*Christina Scotti*  
This graphic just screams at you with the bold coloring against the stark white page. The treatment to the text and the choice of font definitely make it stand out.

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION COVER

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Katonah-Lewisboro Times,  
Katonah  
*Tabitha Pearson Marshall*  
Great image! Really encapsulates springtime.

### SECOND PLACE

Minority Reporter, Rochester  
*Sasha Smith and Patti Singer*  
Powerful imagery.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express  
*Sag Harbor, Bryan Boyhan*  
I LOVE LOVE the detail in this image. Breathtaking.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Somers Record, Somers  
*Simone Kurtz*  
Adorable.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs  
*Francis Zuber, Marisa Scirocco and Chris Vallone Bushee*  
Great eye-catching photo. I like how the ice axes are well-positioned with the text underneath. Clean and simple.

### SECOND PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick  
*Christina Scotti*  
Fun school photo. I like the fonts chosen on "Back to School". Nice color scheme for a school section. Clean, simple, and easy to read at a glance.

### THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
*Marshall Hopkins and Casey Martin*  
Nice winter photo draws a reader in. I like the overlapping font at the top — colorful and eye-catching. Nice way to display a lot of text in the corner with your headlines and page numbers — stays simple and not overpowering with tons of text.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Ty Wenzel*  
Fabulous photo — love it! Nice, simple cover design.

## SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
Very classy, well done from the cover to the back page. Great graphics and nice page design.

### SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
*Todd Sliss and Ann Marie Rezen*  
Sharp cover, great color and graphics throughout. Content and ads all stayed within Back to School theme.

### THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale  
*Todd Sliss and Ann Marie Rezen*  
Eyecatching, content consistent throughout. Nice day camp article.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach  
Very well done, thorough, consistently classy page design. Great presentation from a business that does not get a lot of play. Like that they sold sponsorships.

### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Star,  
East Hampton  
Crisp photos, beautiful design. Content all specific to title subject.

### THIRD PLACE

The Garden City News,  
Garden City  
Nice presentation of the 150th Anniversary.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
Beautiful cover photo, good page design and nice use of photos throughout.

### SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-  
Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Great use of photos relating to subject content. Love the garden design tips and features on bees.

### THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
Nice cover design, quality photos.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Gay City News, New York  
*Paul Schindler and Marcos Ramos*  
Nice concept of honoring those that have impacted the community.

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
Beautiful cover, love the page designs and also that they have recipes. Nicely done!

### SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
Nice multi-section all summer entertainment-related content. Great use of photos provides great insight on everything there is to do.

### THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Michele Sardinia*  
Unique cover, great action shots, and photography throughout. Content all relating covers everything you need to know about basketball.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Michele Sardinia*  
Nice comprehensive football section.

## SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-GLOSSY

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
*Scott Thomas, Joed Viera and Nancy Knight*  
Thorough, great design elements, beautifully crafted from cover to cover; everything one might need to consider when making a decision about a school district. Kudos.

### SECOND PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
*James Fink, Donna Collins and Nancy Knight*  
Another top-notch publication in this category, with strong design elements and copy throughout.

### THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express,  
Sag Harbor  
Impressive design elements, wonderful color throughout and when necessary great use of space to let the content breathe. Excellent work from cover to cover.

### HONORABLE MENTION

East Aurora Advertiser,  
East Aurora  
Excellent map of what is going on in the community; clean, easy on the eyes and good stories mixed in with calendar events.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany  
Very thorough publication with great design elements and all the information one might need for almost any aspect of business.



# Best Art Photo, 2019



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1**  
**DONNA ABBOTT-VLAHOS**  
**ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW**

“I love the abstract look, and it caught my eye, as it looked like a puzzle. Very creative.”



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2**  
**BOB KRASNER**  
**THE VILLAGER (NYC)**

“Vibrant stylized colors, perfect timing on the shot and cropping that both focuses attention on the action and sets the mood with context come together for a very arty composition in this category.”

# Best Graphic Illustration, 2019



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1**  
**DEB LUCKE**  
**THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT**

“Not only was this a great illustration, it also served as a great storytelling device. I would have never thought to use a comic to report on an event — very creative. A fun art style and use of humor made this the top entry. Fantastic job.”



**FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2**  
**CATHY BONGIORNO**  
**GARDEN CITY LIFE**

“This double-page spread is outstanding. The treatment using the sepia tones truly gives the feel of 150 year timeline. The styling of the parchment paired with the vintage photos and their frames really give the flavor to this piece.”



# Excellence Awards

## SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS-GLOSSY

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Eagle Bulletin, Fayetteville  
*Jennifer Wing*  
Good mix of content, graphics and photography throughout.

### SECOND PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon  
Fun publication, nice keepsake for the anniversary. Good use of photography and excellent layout.

### THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket  
Very good layout and design measured use of graphics and fonts.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs  
*Chris Vallone Bushee and Marisa Scirocco*  
Tons of great, colorful content with great mix of stories, columns, graphics and more. Impressive entry that stood out right away.

### SECOND PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs  
*Chris Vallone Bushee and Marisa Scirocco*  
The top bridal special section I've seen yet: lavishly decorated pages, great color, top graphics and stories on quality page stock... superb.

### THIRD PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick  
*Becca Tucker*  
Fun mix of eclectic stories and photos, with some good design elements involved.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Syosset-Jericho Tribune, Syosset  
*Alex Nunez*  
Well-designed publication that's a great fit for the niche.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Jewish Week, New York  
*Gamliel Kronemer and Dan Bocchino*  
Fantastic layout and content, great use of graphics and stories throughout; an impressive entry.

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

The Spectator, Hornell  
*Gracie Contestabile*  
Impressive design elements throughout, lively pages, good use of index makes content easy to find. This is exactly what is needed for a top-notch guide for both tourists and locals.

### SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown  
*Holly Boname*  
Excellent mix of narrative and how-to/advice columns, ads and graphics. Solid design elements

### THIRD PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva  
*Mary E. Thorpe, Anne Allis and Alan Brignall*  
Obviously, a ton of work went into this publication, what is sure to be a must-have for football fans in the region. Kudos for getting all of this together in one publication.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Citizen, Auburn  
Excellent work here for the community at large. Superb graphics and easy-to-find content that made this entry stand out.

## BEST PUBLIC SERVICE OR NON-PROFIT SPECIAL SECTION

### FIRST PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs  
*Chris Vallone Bushee and Marisa Scirocco*  
Gorgeous holiday magazine promoting Catholic Charities Festival of Trees. Beautiful photography, page layouts, ad design, typeface - exquisite. Consistent messaging amplifies the mission of the non-profit - great engagement with numerous community members.

### SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
*Matt Butler and Edwin J. Viera*  
Very special section highlighting the mission and good works of non-profits that fly under the radar or are largely unknown — great service to the community and the service providers. Novel concept — great work.

### THIRD PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo  
*Tracey Drury*  
In depth profiles of 312 Million Dollar Non-Profits in Buffalo. Great page layouts and graphics help reader navigate the amazing amount of information. Content and packaging are extraordinary — great community service piece.

## MAGAZINE

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Bright, engaging, upscale. Excellent art direction/layout with superior feature writing. A pleasure throughout, balancing the usual mix of retail ads against strong editorial.

### SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton  
Clean, attractive and engaging. Excellent cover.

### THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton  
Clean, attractive and engaging. Great photos and writing

### HONORABLE MENTION

The East Hampton Star, East Hampton

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Westchester County Business Journal, White Plains  
*Dee DelBello*  
Very smart and stylish. Stands out with highly appealing cover and editorial spreads.

### SECOND PLACE

Westchester County Business Journal, White Plains  
*Dee DeBello*  
Bright, great mix of edit and layout.

### THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Attractive throughout, strong graphics and arresting cover

### HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Courier, Bayside  
*Cate Corcoran*

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Mary Jo Kravec and Amy Bleier Long*  
Great photos and art direction. Engaging layout, very readable and high-quality writing throughout.

### SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Mary Jo Kravec and Amy Bleier Long*  
Another winner for this great team. Professional and talented.

### THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Mary Jo Kravec and Amy Bleier Long*  
Clean layout, great flow and good cover.

## BEST REAL ESTATE/HOME SECTION

### FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Wow, Wow, WOW!!! — Outstanding publication from cover to cover, and every single page in-between. Incredible "over the top" photography, spectacular advertisements, wonderful and interesting features — this masterpiece went straight to the top.

### SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Patrice David*  
Gorgeous homes paired with beautiful decorating ads really make this standout. Nice use of graphic elements throughout. The builders, contractors and decorators must really appreciate this publication, as well as anyone interested in home searching or just looking to gather great ideas.

### THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake  
*Lindsay Munn and Peter Crowley*  
Beautifully executed magazine. Definitely gives the readers warm and cozy feelings. The majority of ads are a wonderful balance to the beautiful photos. Nice work.

## BEST AUTOMOTIVE SPECIAL SECTION OR MAGAZINE

### FIRST PLACE

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora  
The "Vintage Wheels" section is outstanding. It instantly throws readers into yesteryear. Great photography and nice advertisements throughout. Any automotive enthusiast would cherish this informative section based on the upcoming shows listing. This will certainly have a shelf-life. Everyone knows someone who loves automobiles. This section really gives that "hometown" vibe. Well done!

### SECOND PLACE

Long Island Weekly, Mineola  
*Joseph Wolkin and Alex Nuñez*  
The "Anton Auto Guide" is a "high-fashion" style showpiece. Beautiful attention to details. Really like the "History of Racing On Long Island" piece. Well-written and very clever layout. This section is polished and upscale for sure. Nice work!

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Very nice Holiday Guide! I like the simple, eye-catching layout of the table of contents in the front with an advertiser directory in the back. Includes everything a guide for the holidays should have — an events calendar, nice mix of ads and local stories, eye-catching photos, recipes, a gift guide "wish list", and more. It's topped off with a high-end print job.

### SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Nice high-quality magazine! I like extensive "the season ahead" events calendar — definitely a book that will be consulted throughout the winter months. Nice layout of advertiser directory in the back. Love the local stories, photos and recipes. Good mix of stories with ads.

### THIRD PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady  
What caught my attention with your holiday guide wasn't necessarily the layout and design, but the mix of local and holiday content. There's something for everyone (even a fun page for the kids). There's a calendar (which is a must). There's even reader submitted holiday memories (nice to get the community involved). And the scrapbook adds a nice historical element. I can see the amount of work you spent gathering content.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs  
*Chris Vallone Bushee and Marisa Scirocco*  
Nice high-quality piece. Love the "Our History" section. Nice mix of advertising and local stories. I like the holiday gift guide showcasing specific items.



# Best Spot News Photo(s), 2019

148th Year, Issue 46 | JULY 4, 2019 | www.longislandadvance.net | \$1.00

## LONG ISLAND Advance

Happy Fourth of July!

**Who needs a limo?**  
Patchogue-Medford seniors (left to right) Sarah Baghini, Anna Rodriguez, John Cannon, Victoria Brinkman, Mia Famiglietti and junior Olivia Brinkman ride to prom in style in a 1963 Dodge Custom 880, belonging to parents Susan and Paul. Over 400 students attended Patchogue-Medford's prom on Monday, June 24 at Villa Lamberini in Helmsick. Then, on Wednesday, June 26, over 500 students participated in graduation ceremonies at Rader Stadium. See pictures from this year's prom and graduations on page 6 and 8. Photo courtesy Susan Cannon

**Medford mother kills twin daughters**  
Court documents state that Tenia Campbell killed the girls "with her hands" based on a statement made by Campbell's mother  
BY NICOLE FUENTES

**Expressing his Pride**  
Robert Emmett O'Reilly, who grew up in Bayport and now lives in Venice Beach, Calif., was an exuberant, colorful participant of the Alive After Five Pride event last week. See page 10 and 27 for more on the season's first event. Photo by Linda Leuzzi

**Bellport Residents support Dunkin'**  
Page 5

**Around town What to do this weekend**  
Page 3

WEEKLY PERIODICAL

## FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1 LINDA LEUZZI AND MARK MACNISH LONG ISLAND ADVANCE

"Great photo, and great work by the designer to make that photo pop out. The photographer really captured emotion in this photo."

**The Bridgehampton Fire Department, with mutual aid from numerous other departments and EMS agencies including the Southampton, Hampton Bays, North Sea, Sag Harbor, East Hampton and Springs fire departments, fought a stubborn fire in a 8,000-square-foot residence at 9 West Pond Drive in Bridgehampton on Thursday.**  
michael heller photos

## FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2 MICHAEL HELLER THE SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

"A brilliantly composed photo by Michael Heller stands above the rest in a competitive class."

**Lighting Up The Town**  
p. 31

Independent/Gordon M. Grant

## FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3 GORDON M. GRANT THE INDEPENDENT

"Excellent photo, particularly strong due to the angle in which it was taken. The foreshortening is incredible."



# Excellence Awards

## BEST SPECIAL SECTION - ADVERTISING

### FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton  
Very comprehensive dining guide, attractive high caliber ads, well organized. Appetizing images and well-designed layouts. A keeper. The advertiser index featuring descriptions of the restaurants and their offerings is a great launchpad for browsers to seek full ads inside. Another skimmer-friendly feature is the color-coded edges of the pages by town, with the restaurants' names listed right there on the edge. Thank you for identifying the agency ads, but even that is a testament to your ad sales team and the desirability of being featured in your publication.

### SECOND PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs  
*Chris Vallone Bushee and Marisa Scirocco*  
Visually attractive, lots of good information, well organized and nice layouts.

### THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
Nice use of people throughout, both in the ads and in the content. Getting a main advertiser to sponsor the interviews to provide content — smart move. Well layed out, by category. These things differentiate it from other business directories and make it stand out.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
Bright and appealing photography, images and content convey strong feeling of a waterfront community.

## BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Steven Dorney*  
Love the colors, the message... first-class advertising! Love!

#### SECOND PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring  
*Sheila Smith Cunningham*  
Very clever play on words. Love these, very clean and classy.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Steven Dorney*  
Quality photos, color scheme... beautiful!

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Lea Gonyea and Steve Hodgens*  
Love how the ad campaign tied in with the video. Video addressed multiple issues the 211 service can help with. Well done!

#### SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Lea Gonyea*  
Very nice job relaying the message. The video draws you in and has some nice touches...love it!

#### THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Kayleigh Tarbet*  
Appealed to my senses...bravo...might have to Discover Albany for myself.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

North Country This Week, Potsdam  
*Debbie Morgan*  
Cohesive ad campaign warning about the dangers of lead poisoning...very nice.

## BEST LARGE SPACE AD

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Kayden Fitzgerald*  
Very well done! You were able to make a lot of information eye-catching and easy-to-read. I like the use of the maps, colors, and graphics. It's simple and clean.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Maria Gennaro*  
Nice layout, engaging photo, clean and simple.

#### THIRD PLACE

East Aurora Bee, East Aurora  
*Vince Visciano and Suzanne Cyr*  
Nice layout. I like the use of one large photo and then organized smaller photos below it. Easy-to-read with attention-grabbing colors. Nice clean look.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

West Seneca Bee, West Seneca  
*Trey Measer and Karl Scheithir*  
Fun, colorful and engaging. I like the use of the horn player along with the "Tour of Champions" logo. Nice big offer grabs the reader's attention.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

Colonie-Loudonville Spotlight, Colonie  
*David Abbott*  
Nice photos, simple, elegant design. "If you go" block is handy for quick information. The Flavorful Dining graphic at the top grabs my attention. Nice choice / mix of fonts.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor  
*Charlie Tumino*  
I like how you've designed the look of the quotes and speaker photos. Handles a lot of information in an easy-to-read format. I like the categorized, clean look of the sponsors at the bottom.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket  
*Beth Heller Mason*  
Nice, clean, elegant and simple. I like the layout and the fonts selected.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach  
Nice huge attention-getting offer. Good use of colors. Could have maybe mixed in another font to break things up, but overall nice job. You kept it straightforward and simple.

### DIVISION 3

#### FIRST PLACE

Bay News & Brooklyn Graphic, Brooklyn  
*Arthur Arutyunov*  
This is beautiful! Great use of space and wonderful color scheme. It flows together really well. I like the credentials on the right. I would make an appointment!

#### SECOND PLACE

North Country This Week, Potsdam  
*Debbie Morgan*  
This really deserves recognition. It is colorful and fun, but not juvenile. I love the middle strip and bursts of color with two-dimension wording. The price and product are busy, but not too busy, and is consistent.

#### THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
This is a beautiful ad. It is very inviting, and I would call this company based on this ad.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

North Country This Week, Potsdam  
*Catherine Whalen*  
I know, from working with dealerships, the work that goes into price and product constantly changing. This is very well-done, with a Christmas look. You could use the same color scheme for the 4th and use flags instead of bulbs.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
This is a unique design, and I like the doily look. It is a simple picture of lady with model dress, but the arrangement and information is tastefully and creatively arranged.

### DIVISION 4

#### FIRST PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
I love this—the focus and detail, and it captures the excitement of being there.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Karen Sherwood and Matt Sourwine*  
This was designed very nicely. I love the community events and layout of the whole day of festivities!

#### THIRD PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Steve LaRowe*  
I like the vibrant colors and arrangement of this ad. The testimonials are a great addition and I wish I lived close enough to try them out!

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Citizen, Auburn  
*Lee Cunningham*  
This is such a beautiful ad.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown  
*Stacey Frysingier*  
I like this ad and I like the way they displayed the Gardner veterans!

## BEST SMALL SPACE AD

### DIVISION 1

#### FIRST PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville  
*Jackie Szarafin*  
Simplicity makes the ad stand out from others. Attractive pup photos will always draw the reader's eye.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown  
*Michele Gedney and Pierce Strudler*  
Great use of color to get large impact from a small ad.

#### THIRD PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring  
*Sheila Smith Cunningham*  
Judicious and appropriate use of color in a b/w ad makes it pop off the page. It attracts attention and communicates with strong symbolism.

### DIVISION 2

#### FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket  
*Sharon Nicholson*  
The simple messaging and artwork are appropriate for what I believe (from its advertising) is a homey, rustic store. It stands out on the page which is what you want!

#### SECOND PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket  
A simple, attractive design with a prominent call to action.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket  
*Beth Heller Mason*  
The graphics and font strongly support the roaring 20s theme. It stands out on page and apart from other entries.



## 2019 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# The Independent

The team at The Independent earned 310 contest points (yes, 310 points!) including ten first place awards, taking home Newspaper of the Year honors. They took home first place plaques for General Excellence, Best Front Page, Photographic Excellence, Overall Design Excellence, In-depth Reporting, Coverage of Crime, Police and Courts, Picture Story, Editorial Cartoon, Spot News Photo, and Best Special Section Newsprint.

The judges referenced incredible, well-sourced reporting, compelling writing, beautiful photography and excellent page layout and design. Exceptional photography prompted the judges to say, "best all around photography entry." This is an outstanding newspaper.

## 2019 STUART C. DORMAN AWARD FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

# The Independent

The staff at The Independent collected 260 points in the editorial competition, including first place awards for General Excellence, Best Front Page, Photographic Excellence, Overall Design Excellence, In-depth Reporting, Coverage of Crime, Police and Courts, Picture Story, Editorial Cartoon and Spot News Photo.

The judges said, "This is a very good newspaper...the quality of the photography is excellent... easy to read...excellent layout and design...editorial photos push the story further."

## 2019 JOHN J. EVANS AWARD FOR ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

# TIE — Dan's Papers

Dan's Papers earned 80 points in the advertising competition including five first place awards for Innovative Ad Project, Best Online Static Ad, Best Conquered Target E-mail, Best Real Estate/Home Section, and Best Small Space Ad.

The judges said, "ads are very creative...great use of humor... there is a strong focal point and a strong call to action...catchy."

# TIE — The Post-Standard

The Post-Standard earned 80 points in the advertising portion of the contest. They won first place awards for Best Ad Campaign and Best Large Space Ad, and second place awards for Best Real Estate/Home Section, Best Ad Campaign, and Best Large Space Ad. They also earned third place honors for Innovative Ad Project.

The judges said, "very nice job relaying the message...this ad appealed to my senses... great way to tie in video/web...love the focus and detail...bravo!"

## 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.*



### STUART C. DORMAN AWARD

1990 - The Riverdale Press	2005 - The Villager (NYC)
1991 - The Riverdale Press	2006 - The North Shore Sun
1992 - The Riverdale Press	2007 - The Riverdale Press
1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer	2008 - The North Shore Sun
1994 - The Riverdale Press	2009 - The Suffolk Times
1995 - The Cuba Patriot	2010 - Long Island Press
1996 - The Record-Review	2011 - The Sag Harbor Express
1997 - The Record-Review	2012 - Long Island Press
1998 - The Record-Review	2013 - The News-Review
1999 - The Record-Review	2014 - The Suffolk Times
2000 - The Sag Harbor Express	2015 - The Sag Harbor Express
2001 - The Villager (NYC)	2016 - The Sag Harbor Express
2002 - The Record-Review	2017 - The Sag Harbor Express
2003 - The Sag Harbor Express	2018 - The Suffolk Times
2004 - The Villager (NYC)	2019 - The Independent



## JOHN J. EVANS

*John J. Evans is the former executive vice president of Bee Publications, Inc., Buffalo. Evans is a past president of the New York Press Association and the New York Press Service. Acknowledging the countless hours Evans has devoted to assisting NYPA members with their advertising programs, the NYPA Board of Directors established the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence in 1990.*

### JOHN J. EVANS AWARD

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



# Excellence Awards

## BEST SMALL SPACE AD

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
The colors and the logo make it stand out.  
Nice job.

### SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Clean, attractive. Great use of space.

### THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
*Marshall Hopkins*  
Nice, eye catching. Love the color with the grayscale image.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald,  
Lynbrook

### HONORABLE MENTION

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach  
Nice ad, catches the eye. Not too busy.

DIVISION 4

### FIRST PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva  
*Anne Allis*  
Nice and clean. Very creative.

### SECOND PLACE

The Citizen, Auburn  
*Lee Cunningham*  
Nice use of space. Fresh feel.

### THIRD PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Steve LaRowe*  
Eye catcher.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown  
*Stacey Frysjinger*  
Nice.

## BEST MULTI-ADVERTISER PAGES

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Review,  
Brooklyn  
*Liz Galvin*  
This is a fun and interesting spread that just spelled FUN.

### SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead  
*Michael Versandi*  
*and Kimberly Gersic*  
A bright, clean, telegraphic section.

### THIRD PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca  
Very clever! It builds a sense of community and the dates encourage the reader to the reader to look at every ad.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The East Hampton Press,  
East Hampton  
Lovely and light design with modern style.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Michael Versandi*  
*and Kimberly Gersic*  
The judge loved how the ads blended well into the entire theme.

## BEST MULTI-ADVERTISER PAGES

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

Times Union, Albany  
*Jill Ginac*  
The whole campaign was bright and very clear.

### SECOND PLACE

*Daily Sentinel, Rome*  
This section was just plain fun!

### THIRD PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Steve LaRowe*  
Simply elegant and peaceful.

## BEST HOUSE AD/AD CAMPAIGN

DIVISION 1

### FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Steven Dorney*  
I can't get over how much I love what this ad is doing. It's right on message, simple, uncluttered and effective. Best of all, it does not feel forced or rushed. It makes use of a local news photo too, so it's on message. In a world of 1,000,001 things this ad focuses on one idea that matters. We should all learn from it, for us and also for our customers.

### SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current,  
Philipstown  
*Pierce Strudler, Heidi Kitlas*  
*and Chris Bockelmann*  
I am getting a newspaper as NPR vibe from this - not in a bad way. The entire approach and execution of this is polished and put together well, with colors and design that tie it all together. The testimonials make it relatable, and the "You the Reader" point of view comes through. For some newspapers, this approach is a way to the future.

### TIE - THIRD PLACE

East Aurora Advertiser,  
East Aurora  
Kudos on featuring yourselves and tooting your own horns! More local papers need to self-promote with things like this. For readers who have not come to your office and met your staff, you are bringing your staff to meet them in this way.

### TIE - THIRD PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville  
This is a fun house ad that makes you want to pick up the phone. Nothing wrong with that!

### HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany  
*Kayden Fitzgerald*  
Event-based business leadership is forward-thinking. Color and design have a modern look. This is a great business approach, akin to what Chambers of Commerce accomplish. It is a very professional approach that invites future opportunities for paid advertising.

DIVISION 2

### FIRST PLACE

The Chronicle, Goshen  
*Christina Scotti*  
A winner on a lot of levels. The color, shape and style of the ad augment the idea of the Girl Boss Expo event. This ad also has a call to action, which is important for response success. What a great area for your paper to lead the way in. Nicely done!

### SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton  
*Ty Wenzel*  
Ask for what you want, and you are likely to get it. Wonderful design.

### THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
Newspaper as event poster - you could be on to something!

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Red Hook Star-Review,  
Brooklyn  
*George Fiala*  
Cool! But also hot. Excellent use of color and style increases the impact with album-cover style.

DIVISION 3

### FIRST PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson  
*Steve LaRowe*  
Greene is for GO! The shape and color help communicate a friendly beginning to this wonderful "Best Of" tradition that I'm seeing all over.

### SECOND PLACE

Daily Sentinel, Oneida  
*Irene Tyler and Stephanie Capria*  
This is a nice collection of flyers and a wonderful example of what can be done with templates etc. from services such as Metro. Imagining myself as a client in your area, these on-message flyers would break through clutter of other pitches and entice me without wasting my time.

### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown  
*Holly Boname*  
Good image call to action and uncluttered design.

## INNOVATIVE AD PROJECT

### FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton  
What an ambitious project! Some might ask what's so innovative about a newspaper putting out a tab to celebrate a milestone anniversary. Well, anyone who has read the project description — or has heard it read out at the awards ceremony - can see that the innovation is in the degree which Dan's Papers has taken this basic concept. The long-range planning and thoughtfulness for audience interest are apparent. The writing rich and creative yet sprinkled generously with humor. Tantalizing bits about hoax stories, brushes with fame, covers featuring acclaimed artists, cartoons and a once-in-an-80-year-so-far-lifetime interview with the founder are eyeball magnets. Advertisers are treated as partners in producing the project, with revenues exceeding the \$200k goal by 35% as testament to the appeal to them. Tied in with a gala event and a portion of the proceeds donated to a local nonprofit which benefits many local charities put a nice bow on the entire package. Way to put an innovative spin on an anniversary tab.

## SECOND PLACE

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg  
*Amanda Reed*

Very clever way to capitalize on the global appeal of Woodstock during its 50th anniversary celebration. Each card being sold to an advertiser on something as universally appealing as a deck of playing cards gives their recognition the longevity of a treasured keepsake. Every aspect of the production was well thought out, from the design of the cards themselves, to the packaging, to the point-of-purchase display materials, to the promotion of the cards. Groovy!

## THIRD PLACE

The Post-Standard, Syracuse  
*Lea Gonyea and Jason Murray*  
Great way to tie in video/web to promote the newspaper's sports products. Excellent production value, and a real sense of the paper's involvement with local sports.

## HONORABLE MENTION

Amherst Bee, Williamsville  
*Teresa Eastman*  
Nice innovative touch tying in the holiday theme by having all the pets' photos required to feature some holiday aspect (in costume, with Santa, by the tree, etc.) Cute pet photos, sure to have attracted lots of eyeballs. The only thing I would have liked to have seen, to give it more local appeal, would be to have at least the pets' owners' names listed with the pet names, rather than on the next page (as it mentions in the small type). Otherwise, nice promo.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

### FIRST PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville  
Wonderful use of color, and a nice ad count. Organized well, fun to read. To be honest, I am envious of this classified section. It puts a spotlight on the small advertiser, which is the bread and butter of any Classified Department. Excellent work!

### SECOND PLACE

The Garden City News,  
Garden City  
A good look, nice clean headers. I especially like the photo of the dog with the newspaper. Good overall positive feel for both the advertiser and the reader.

### THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times,  
Watertown  
*Holly Boname*  
This is a good example of the power of photography as a selling tool in great ads. In fact, "Photography in Advertising" should be its own category for entries.

## HONORABLE MENTION

The Village Times Herald,  
Setauket  
Bright layout and good column spacing. This is uncluttered and easy to read.

## HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck  
*Karen Cullen and Kim Gersic*  
Clean layout, good volume and use of contrasts. There is a lot of good information here.



# Best Special Section Cover, 2019



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1  
TABITHA PEARSON MARSHALL  
THE KATONAH-LEWISBORO TIMES

“Great image!  
Really encapsulates springtime.”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2  
FRANCIS ZUBER, MARISA SCIROCCO,  
CHRIS VALLONE BUSHEE  
SARATOGA TODAY

“Great eye-catching photo. I like how the  
ice axes are well-positioned with the text  
underneath. Clean and simple.”

PRINTING OF THIS AWARDS NEWSPAPER  
COURTESY OF



## Editor's Note

Members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association judged the contest entries in January — no small task — there were 2,918 entries. Their thoughtful, detailed comments reflect their professional experience in our industry. We are grateful for their time and commitment to this project, which means so much to NYPA member newspapers.

NYPA staffers Jill Van Dusen and Rich Hotaling spend hours processing entries, working with judges, verifying the winners, creating plaques, certificates, award scripts, and creating this contest newspaper.

Thank you for your meticulous attention to detail and your good humor. You make the work fun.

NYPA's adopted staff member, Rick Fensterer, has for decades, been the wizard behind the curtain, converting the winning entries into four separate awards slide shows — all during his “free time.”

Thanks Rick, we couldn't do it without you.

And to our good friends at Trumbull Printing — thank you for helping us to showcase our winners by printing this newspaper. The newspaper is a treasure to many — shared with family, friends and colleagues and then tucked away for safe keeping. Thank you for your quality reproduction and your generosity.

Finally, to all of the newspaper staff who entered — we know it is a time consuming job and we're grateful that you take the time. The contest provides an opportunity to display the powerful, impactful work being done by community newspapers — we are proud of you and we're grateful for the good work you do every day.

Michelle Rea — Executive Director



## 2019 BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

# Spectator

*Spectator*, from Fredonia Central High School, is the 2019 Best High School Newspaper in New York State. The newspaper staff earned 65 contest points, including the first place award for Design, and eleven other awards.

The judges said, "Full-bleed photos on covers; clean and consistent font choices for headlines, body text, photo captions; nice use of photography, graphics and original creative illustrations; the inclusion of local advertisements — all of these elements have placed the *Spectator* at the top of the list. Students should be very proud of their collective efforts."

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

#### FIRST PLACE

Manor Ink, Livingston Manor Free Library  
This truly ambitious undertaking covers both school and community issues with professionalism. Layout and design are solid, making good use of both photography and display type both in advertising and the editorial space. The headlines were well-written and on point and the stories were well-written and well-edited. A special tip of the hat to their Trout Parade coverage, which showcased the staff's initiative and creativity.

#### SECOND PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School  
This paper has a lot going for it: Great covers as well as wonderful design, photography, ads and writing. Beyond those valuable basics, the paper had truly interesting and germane stories, columns and editorials providing its readership with a wealth of information and insight. Bravo to everyone!

#### THIRD PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
Great use of photography, solid editorials and columns and well-designed ads made The Spectator stand out. All of their editions were a joy to read.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Phoenix,  
Kellenberg Memorial High School  
*James Mooney III*  
The Phoenix provides its school community a good reflection of people and events. The writing is solid, and the design is clean and easy to navigate.

### NEWS STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School  
*Malachi Rummings*  
In a very competitive category, this news article stood out for its news value and likely interest to its audience: The abrupt shutting down of the school's boys' bathroom. The story was timely, informative and to the point, with Rummings asking the hard questions that needed to be asked.

#### SECOND PLACE

Manor Ink, Livingston Manor Free Library  
*Marlee Madison*  
This story demonstrated incredible initiative and a great job of getting out in the world and talking to people.

#### THIRD PLACE

Horizon, Lynbrook High School  
*Jane Hoeflinger*  
Journalism captures a community's history, in both big pieces and small. This story, of a student saving the life of a choking man is a prime example of why journalism is important to a community.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School  
*Isaac Weaver*  
This comprehensive and well-written article on a solar farm installation deserves recognition for

clearly explaining the project with the amount of detail a city editor at a daily newspaper would demand. The story hit all the bases - from financial details to comments from those involved.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Mackenzie Abbey*

When it comes to a news story, there's great value in providing your audience with detailed information about their physical environment. This story about a major construction project also included a sidebar on the project's inclusion of unisex bathrooms.

### FEATURE STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

The Phoenix,  
Kellenberg Memorial High School  
*Isabella Nieminen*

Isabella Nieminen's story began with a compelling lede and retained the reader's interest with lively writing and solid information. This is a great example of the power of active verbs and concrete descriptions.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Samantha Militello*  
Informative and well written, Militello's story about teachers who are beekeepers makes great use of quotes to advance the narrative. The author did a great job of structuring her story and incorporating broader issues.

#### THIRD PLACE

Horizon, Lynbrook High School  
*Julia Swerdin*

This profile was well organized with plenty of detail. The result was a piece that did an admirable job of telling an important story.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Emily Smith*

A solid job of covering an important subject. Smith is a fine writer and her story provided insight, context and perspective.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Manor Ink, Livingston Manor Free Library  
*Hunter Krause*  
Hunter Krause's ambitious review of nine Radiohead studio albums showed initiative and creativity. That, coupled with his musical knowledge, produced a fascinating review that even non-fans could appreciate.

### COLUMN

#### FIRST PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School  
*Heather Johnston*  
Heather Johnston writes clear, well-reasoned columns in a way that easily relates to the audience. She tackled tough topics, included other voices and offered her point of view.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Marissa Burr*

Marissa Burr took seemingly mundane topics - homework, senioritis and lunchtime - and made them fascinating columns. With wit and polish, Burr put the spotlight on real-life problems faced by high school students.

#### THIRD PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School  
*Aidan Cappellino*

Cappellino's column are both well-reasoned and interesting. His writing displays both intelligence and thoughtfulness as well as a firm grasp of his subject matter.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Dominic Gullo*

### DESIGN

#### FIRST PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
Full-bleed photos on covers; clean and consistent font choices for headlines, body text, photo captions; nice use of photography, graphics and original creative illustrations; the inclusion of local advertisements — all of these elements have placed the Spectator at the top of the list. Students should be very proud of their collective efforts.

#### SECOND PLACE

Hoofbeats, Sanford Calhoun High School  
Nice front page layout; like the index boxes along the bottom; fully justified text within the four column format makes for great uniformity and readability; pull quotes are a nice touch; usage of both grayscale and full-color photography — all make for a great school paper. Nicely done.

#### THIRD PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School  
Strong use of photography; the mixture of weights and placement of those photos is nicely executed; the "At a Glance" section is very informative and useful, consistent column formatting and great gutter width keep body copy clean and easy to read.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### FIRST PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School  
Vibrant color; incredibly sharp foreground focus; asymmetrical cropping; paired with superb auction of the tackle all make this particular photo jump to the top.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Alexis Schroeder*  
Alexis really captured a moment with this shot. The theatrical facial expressions alone make this worthy. I can see why this became the cover.

#### THIRD PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School  
This group photo of the students at "World Youth Day" is very patriotic. The backdrop of Panama City on such a sunny and bright day really creates a statement. The crisp clarity from the brick pavers, the facial expressions, the flags, right on to the skyline really make this stand out.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Mackenzie Abbey*  
This photo depicts the desire to win. You can feel the power that drives this swimmer. Capturing the motion of the water is incredible.

### BEST SPORTS STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

The Phoenix,  
Kellenberg Memorial High School  
*Angelo Tsassis*  
In a very crowded category, Angelo Tsassis' article stood out for its vibrant writing and clear grasp of his topic. The story had steam, from its enticing lede to its concluding metaphor.

#### SECOND PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School  
*Aidan Cappellino*  
Cappellino clearly knows how to capture the excitement as well as the nuances of a hard-fought football game. With words, he painted a picture of the contest. The result was a gamer that stood out above the rest.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Ally Walton-Bald*  
Walton-Bald did more than focus on a young woman's decision to pursue the male-dominated sport of wrestling. She added depth to her story and the result was a fun, informative read.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Horizon, Lynbrook High School  
*Harrison Simon*  
This basketball game story did a great job of capturing action and intensity, as well as putting the game into context with the season as a whole.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Mackenzie Quinn*  
Kudos for pursuing a story on this new regulation.

### BEST WEB SITE

#### FIRST PLACE

Horizon, Lynbrook High School  
Great looking site with a clean design and consistent use of fonts and text blocks. The scrolling box across the top is a wonderful touch to give a quick glance of topics. The "opinions" section is filled with interesting and well-written articles. Actually, the writing through these pieces is well done. I do like the use of original illustrations and impressive photos. Staff listing with the headshots is a great idea too. Very well constructed site.

#### SECOND PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School  
When you start clicking into the home page icons, the overall layout is extremely clean and breathable. The use of white space makes for easy readability. The treatment to each headline is very nice. Quality writing throughout. The use of many student and faculty photographs throughout each section paired with talented illustrators' work truly show the school's spirit. Students should be very proud.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Phoenix,  
Kellenberg Memorial High School  
*James Mooney III*  
This is a very informative site. Many questions about admissions, policies, programs, athletics, buses report cards... you name it, can be answered. Outstanding number of photos of student life and activities throughout the gallery. Nice touch with the previous editions of The Phoenix school newspaper.

### BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

#### FIRST PLACE

Horizon, Lynbrook High School  
*Elizabeth Ratkiewicz*  
This was a good use of combining current and recycled content, with a dash of Billy Joel star power, to post a YouTube birthday tribute.

#### SECOND PLACE

Horizon, Lynbrook High School  
*Harrison Simon*  
Nice job adding new elements to this sports story with videos.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Spectator,  
Fredonia Central High School  
*Lisa Reinhardt*  
Kudos for pursuing a written social media strategy and tracking its success.



## 2019 BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

# The Ithacan

We don't know what to call a team that wins the same award 18 times, so we'll just call it the Best College Newspaper. *The Ithacan* earned 165 points in the college contest, winning first place awards for General Excellence, Feature Story, Column, Editorial, Best Sports Coverage, Best Web Site and Use of Social Media.

The judges said, "Top-notch journalism, fascinating graphics, clean style and subject diversity pushed *The Ithacan* to the winning spot in this very competitive category. A thoughtful opinion page, complete with a local editorial cartoon, is just one of its assets. The paper does a stellar job of covering its community, pursuing enterprise, holding power to account and serving its readers and advertisers."



### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
Top-notch journalism, fascinating graphics, clean style and subject diversity pushed *The Ithacan* to the winning spot in this very competitive category. A thoughtful opinion page, complete with a local editorial cartoon, is just one of its assets. The paper does a stellar job of covering its community, pursuing enterprise, holding power to account and serving its readers and advertisers.

#### SECOND PLACE

Reporter Magazine, Rochester Institute of Technology  
At first glance, it's *The Reporter's* spectacular design that stands out. But the design does more than look pretty: It provides a beautiful framework for content that's both relevant and timely to readers. The stories were meaty, well-developed and well-written. Overall, *The Reporter* is a fun, interesting publication stuffed with quality content.

#### THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun, Cornell University  
The *Cornell Daily Sun* displays a strong commitment to journalism, from breaking news stories to sports to features. The paper clearly engages its readers especially with relevant columns and editorials. Design was solid, both for editorial and advertising.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Campus Magazine, The City College of New York

### NEWS STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun, Cornell University  
*Maryam Zafar*  
Very comprehensive coverage of a tragic event. The story including breaking news as well as a host of relevant facts for a compelling, informative read.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Chronicle, College of Saint Rose  
*Burke, Paolicelli, Clark, DeMicco, Manning, Vissagio, Know, Lo/Go*  
A great enterprise story that raised questions about the campus' health center. The article reflects initiative as well as appreciation to hold the school administration accountable for the provided services. The story humanizes the problem and provides important context with comparisons to other schools.

#### THIRD PLACE

Campus Times, University of Rochester  
*Efua Agyare-Kumi*  
Thoughtful and well-written, this article provided context to a fast-moving series of events.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Ryan Bieber*  
The Ithacan's story on off-campus housing succeeded by timely showcasing the complex yet pressing housing problems facing by college students. This was a complicated issue handled effectively by a writer with a solid grasp of his subject.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Impact, Mercy College  
*Valerie Lopez and Jared Naut*  
A fascinating story that showed initiative and balance. This story did what good journalism is supposed to do: Reflect our world and offer greater understanding.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Krissy Waite*  
In a very competitive field, this story did a great job of tackling a simple issue and explaining its import.

### FEATURE STORY

#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Emily Adams*  
This was a masterful story from concept to execution. The writing was clear and dynamic. Even more impressive was Adams' evident interviewing skills, which yielded fascinating insights adding richness to the piece. This was an incredibly competitive category but "Healing Body and Mind" easily stood out from the from the pack.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College  
*Valerie Lopez*  
Beginning with its introductory anecdote, this story succeeds in conveying the love and commitment of a young woman's tribute to her mother, who died of cancer. Lopez deftly avoids sentimentality while conveying the challenges the family faced and the steps they are taking to move forward.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Arleigh Rodgers*  
A solid job of introducing readers to people involved. With the adept use of details and quotes, Rodgers brought readers along with her as she talked with these interesting people.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Campus Times, University of Rochester  
*An Nguyen*  
This was a fun, well-written story.

### COLUMN

#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Mahad Olad*  
I love a column that expands my understanding of the world and Olad's columns did just that. This was a very competitive category this year; Olad's writing was clear, insightful and a joy to read.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College  
*Amber Perez*  
Perez deftly avoids being self-indulgent in this introspective column, which provides the reader with a better understanding of the struggles faced by young people coming of age in challenging times.

### THIRD PLACE

The Chronicle, College of Saint Rose  
*Aileen Burke (A3)*  
Burke's column succeeded because she based it on her personal experience but expanded it with facts. The result was a novel column providing useful information.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Impact, Mercy College  
*Francesca Simone*  
Simone is clearly a skilled writer. This was a joy to read.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Empire State Tribune, Kings College  
*Holly Shavelle*  
Shavelle's column illustrates the value of making your point with concrete examples and backing it up with data. Nice job.

### DESIGN

#### FIRST PLACE

The Campus Magazine, The City College of New York  
With eye-popping color and fascinating graphics, *The Campus* is a showcase for great design. It's fun when it needs to be and serious when the content demands it. I loved the use of white space, the display type and the adherence to style.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Carly Swanson, Anna Costa and Erika Liberati*  
Clean, clear design accented with some wonderfully informative graphics. House ads also stood out as clear and effective.

#### THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun, Cornell University  
*Sabrina Xie*  
Simple modular design makes good use of photos and art. This paper's design does what good design is supposed to do: Not get in the way of content. Kudos for the graphics in the commemorative edition.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### FIRST PLACE

Statesman, SUNY Stony Brook  
*Emma Harris*  
Sometimes the best sports photos are off the field and Emma Harris' heart-wrenching photo of two football players hugging after a loss proves the point. This photographer was in the right place and clearly has the technical skills to produce a photo that will touch your heart.

#### SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Kristen Harrison*  
This photo was nicely composed, full of color and rich with emotion.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Reporter Magazine, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Jesse Wolfe*  
In a very competitive category, this photographer deserves recognition for capturing emotion and action. Nice composition as well.

### BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
*Jack Murray, Emily Adams and Lauren White*  
This sport sections does it all: Feature great sports stories and timely game coverage while giving its readers the sports information they need via great graphics.

#### SECOND PLACE

Reporter Magazine, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Jesse Wolfe, Cayla Keiser and Kasey Mathews*  
Love the diversity approach

#### THIRD PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun, Cornell University  
*Raphy Gendler*  
Nice variety, great layout

### EDITORIAL

#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
Hard-hitting, well-reasoned editorials that do the crucial job of holding power to account. Nice job.

#### SECOND PLACE

Campus Times, University of Rochester  
Timely and reasoned discussion on real issues facing the campus community. These editorials did a stellar job of explaining the issue and charting a path forward.

#### THIRD PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College  
*Nicole Acosta*  
These editorials were welcome discussions of hot-button issues on college campuses.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Reporter Magazine, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Frankie Albin and Kristin Grant*  
Introspective.

### BEST WEB SITE

#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
This is a robust website full of current content and reflecting a diversity of voices, topics and approaches. The Ithacan also stood out for its vibrancy, offering content that was fresh, different and thought-provoking. Podcasts and videos were well-executed and clearly produced on a regular basis. The simple homepage design was restrained, which gave power to each piece of content showcased.

#### SECOND PLACE

Cornell Daily Sun, Cornell University  
*Natalie Fung*  
Special kudos for the Projects section of the website, which showcased in-depth reporting of significant issues including the 50th anniversary of an important student protest on campus. From graphics to timelines, each of the projects illustrated how digital tools can add to the reader's understanding. The main website features clean design and easy navigation.

#### THIRD PLACE

Statesman, SUNY Stony Brook  
This well-designed website had all the features of good design - from hyperlinks to social media sharing tools to newsletter signups.

### BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

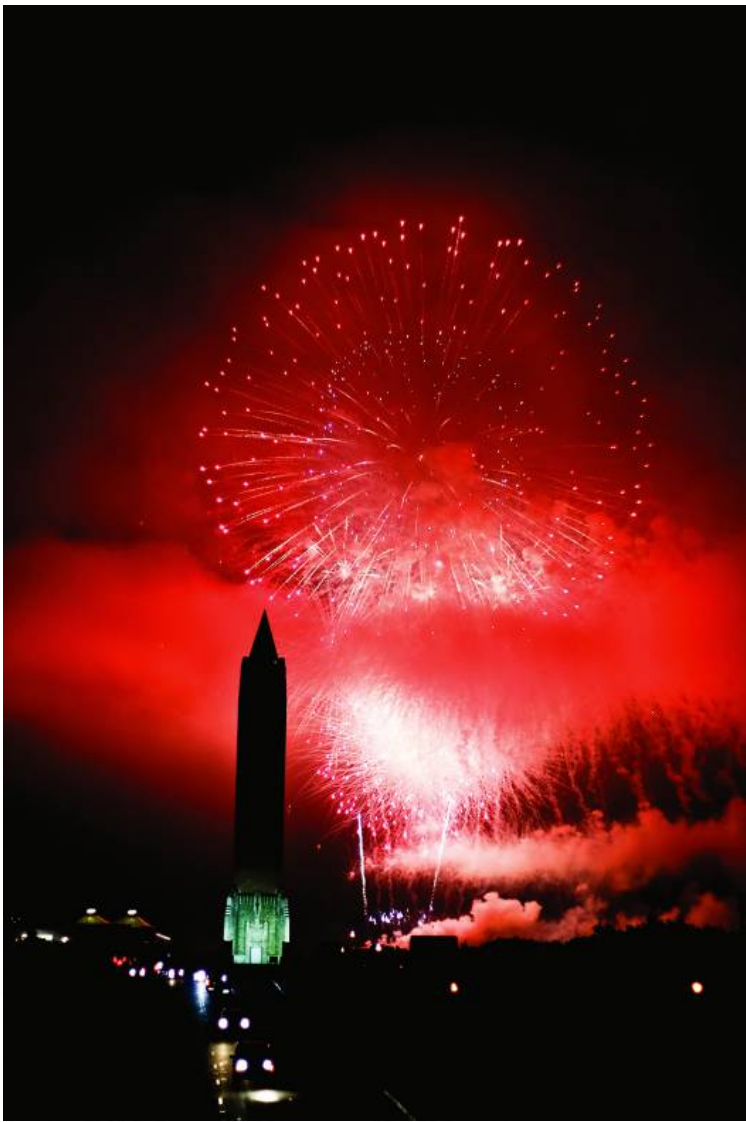
#### FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College  
The Ithacan does a fine job of pushing its content to all the major social media channels in a timely manner.

#### SECOND PLACE

Reporter Magazine, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Ali Johnston*  
The Reporter is doing some distinctive things to engage its audience with illustration and video, primarily on Facebook and Instagram.





*Congrats...*  
to all of our winners!

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