

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
2017 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



Celebrating

Newspaper Excellence



And the Winners Are...

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR The Suffolk Times

STUART C. DORMAN AWARD
Editorial Excellence
The Sag Harbor Express

JOHN J. EVANS AWARD
Advertising Excellence
Dan's Papers

2017 WRITER OF THE YEAR
Frank G. Runyeon
City & State

2017 ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR
Holly Lipka
Amherst Bee

2017 SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR
Gavin Menu
The Sag Harbor Express

2017 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
Michael Heller
The Sag Harbor Express

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post — **First Place**

THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING

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

The Suffolk Times — **First Place, Division 2**

Lynbrook / East Rockaway Herald — **First Place, Division 4**

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

The Southampton Press - Western Edition — **First Place, Division 1**

Rockville Centre Herald — **First Place, Division 2**

BEST FRONT PAGE

Warsaw's Country Courier — **First Place, Division 1**

The News-Review — **First Place, Division 2**

Bay Ridge Courier — **First Place, Division 3**

The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — **First Place, Division 4**

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Press-Republican — **First Place**

Ithaca Times — **Second Place**

Gay City News — **Third Place**

The Suffolk Times — **Honorable Mention**

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

The Sag Harbor Express — **First Place**

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Albany Business Review — **First Place, Division 1**

The Riverdale Press — **First Place, Division 2**

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

Albany Business Review — **First Place**

The News-Review — **Second Place**

The Southampton Press - Eastern Edition — **Third Place**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 2.....Excellence Award Winners
PAGE 3.....Top Five Newspapers
PAGE 4.....Most Competitive Categories
PAGE 5.....Rookie of the Year
PAGE 6.....Winners Listing
PAGE 7.....Writer of the Year
PAGE 8.....Winners Listing
PAGE 9.....Sports Writer of the Year
PAGE 10.....Winners Listing
PAGE 11.....Photographer of the Year
PAGE 12.....Winners Listing
PAGE 13.....Best Front Page
PAGE 14.....Winners Listing
PAGE 15.....Best Sports Action Photo
PAGE 16.....Winners Listing
PAGE 17.....In-Depth Reporting
PAGE 18.....Winners Listing
PAGE 19.....Community Leadership
PAGE 20.....Winners Listing
PAGE 21.....Overall Design Excellence
PAGE 22.....Winners Listing
PAGE 23.....Best Large Space Ad
PAGE 24.....Winners Listing
PAGE 25.....Graphic Illustration
PAGE 26.....Winners Listing
PAGE 27.....Best Art Photo
PAGE 28.....Dorman and Evans Awards
PAGE 29.....High School Awards
PAGE 30.....College Awards
PAGE 32.....Photo Collage

PHOTO CREDITS

FRONT COVER

TOP - HOUSE FIRE

Michael Heller

The Sag Harbor Express

BOTTOM LEFT - PROTESTING

Peter R. Barber

The Daily Gazette

BOTTOM RIGHT - HOMELESS

Adi Talwar

Norwood News

BACK COVER

TOP LEFT - INDIAN

Michael Heller

The Sag Harbor Express

2ND LEFT - BASKETBALL TEARS

Peter R. Barber

The Daily Gazette

3RD LEFT - CHEERIOS ECLIPSE

Tim Lamorte

The Rivertowns Enterprise

BOTTOM LEFT - POLICE SAXAPHONE

Tim Lamorte

The Rivertowns Enterprise

TOP RIGHT - GOAT FARM

Michael Heller

The Sag Harbor Express

MIDDLE CENTER - BASKETBALL DRIBBLE

Peter R. Barber

The Daily Gazette

2ND RIGHT - FIREWORKS ON WATER

Peter R. Barber

The Daily Gazette

BOTTOM RIGHT - CITY STREETS

Adi Talwar

Norwood News

About the 2017 Better Newspaper Contest...

156 newspapers submitted 2,783 entries.

Participating newspapers competed for awards in 65 categories, and for Newspaper of the Year, the Stuart C. Dorman Award for Editorial Excellence and the John J. Evans Award for Advertising Excellence.

536 awards were presented during NYPA's Spring Convention April 13th and 14th, 2018.

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

The winners were determined based on the following point system:

EACH FIRST PLACE AWARD.....20 POINTS

EACH SECOND PLACE AWARD.....10 POINTS

EACH THIRD PLACE AWARD.....5 POINTS



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

Times/Review Newspapers — 465 POINTS

THE SUFFOLK TIMES, THE NEWS-REVIEW, SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

Herald Community Newspapers — 300 POINTS

BALDWIN HERALD, BELLMORE HERALD, EAST MEADOW HERALD, FRANKLIN SQUARE ELMONT HERALD, FREEPORT HERALD LEADER, GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE, LONG BEACH HERALD, LYNBROOK EAST ROCKAWAY HERALD, MALVERNE WEST HEMPSTEAD HERALD, MERRICK HERALD, 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

The Press Newspaper Group — 240 POINTS

THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN,
THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN, THE EAST HAMPTON PRESS

NYC Community Media LLC — 215 POINTS

CHELSEA NOW, DOWNTOWN EXPRESS, EAST VILLAGER, GAY CITY NEWS, THE VILLAGER

Johnson Newspaper Corporation — 170 POINTS

WATERTOWN DAILY NEWS, THE DAILY NEWS, LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

THE TOP FIVE — SINGLE FLAG NEWSPAPERS TOTAL CONTEST POINTS:

The Sag Harbor Express — 255 POINTS

Albany Business Review — 195 POINTS

Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post — 125 POINTS

Press-Republican — 120 POINTS

TIE: The Highlands Current — 85 POINTS

TIE: The Daily Gazette — 85 POINTS

TIE: Livingston County News — 85 POINTS

THE TOP FIVE NEWSPAPERS TOTAL EDITORIAL CONTEST POINTS:

The Sag Harbor Express — 190 POINTS

The Suffolk Times — 155 POINTS

The News-Review — 120 POINTS

Albany Business Review — 110 POINTS

TIE: Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post — 90 POINTS

TIE: Press-Republican — 90 POINTS

THE TOP FIVE NEWSPAPERS TOTAL ADVERTISING CONTEST POINTS:

Dan's Papers — 90 POINTS

The Suffolk Times — 60 POINTS

Albany Business Review — 55 POINTS

The Village Times Herald — 50 POINTS

TIE: Long Island Weekly — 30 POINTS

TIE: Putnam County News & Recorder — 30 POINTS

TIE: Syracuse New Times — 30 POINTS

TIE: Williston Times — 30 POINTS

NYNAME WINNERS

TIE: Press-Republican — 30 POINTS

TIE: Register-Star — 30 POINTS

TIE: The Daily News — 25 POINTS

TIE: Finger Lakes Times — 25 POINTS

TIE: Watertown Daily Times — 25 POINTS

About the Competition...



CATEGORY 31 — FEATURE STORY

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

- Division 1:.....Nicholas Esposito, GreaterLongIsland.com
- Division 2:.....Frank G. Runyeon, City & State
- Division 3:.....Steve Wick and Grant Parpan, The Suffolk Times
- Division 4:.....Sarah Matusek, The Red Hook Star-Revue
- Division 5:.....Alex Petroski, Port-Times Record
- Division 6:.....Ben Rowe, Press-Republican
- Division 7:.....Matt Butler, Ithaca Times

CATEGORY 30 — NEWS STORY

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

- Division 1:.....The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post
- Division 2:.....Matt Leader, Livingston County News
- Division 3:.....N. Nataly, S. Brinton, E. Hawkins, B. Stieglitz and C. Daly, Freeport Herald Leader

CATEGORY 42 — FEATURE PHOTO(S)

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

- Division 1:.....Ben Beagle, Livingston County News
- Division 2:.....Christina Daly, Freeport Herald Leader
- Division 3:.....Rocco Laurienzo, The Daily News

CATEGORY 32 — BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

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

- Division 1:.....Antonio Olivero, Adirondack Daily Enterprise
- Division 2:.....Ben Beagle and Matt Leader, Livingston County News
- Division 3:.....Stephany Reyes, East Meadow Herald
- Division 4:.....Michael Gannon, Queens Chronicle

CATEGORY 43 — SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

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

- Division 1:.....Benjamin Patton, The Walton Reporter
- Division 2:.....Robert O'Rourke, The News-Review
- Division 3:.....Jeffrey Armstrong, Queens Ledger

CATEGORY 35 — BEST COLUMN

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

- Division 1:.....Bob Seidenstein, Adirondack Daily Enterprise
- Division 2:.....Charity Robey, Shelter Island Reporter
- Division 3:.....Michele Herman, The Villager (NYC)

CATEGORY 29 — SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

Great coverage of a single news event — congratulations to:

- Division 1:.....The Sag Harbor Express
- Division 2:.....Ben Strack, Jeff Bessen, Scott Brinton, Rockville Centre Herald
- Division 3:.....Denise A. Raymo, Lois Clermont and Cara Chapman, Press-Republican



Rookie Reporter of the Year, 2017

There were 24 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE: HOLLY LIPKA, AMHERST BEE

Reporter Holly Lipka started working at the *Bee Group Newspapers* on March 2, 2017. For each weekly edition of *The Amherst Bee*, she writes one to three feature stories and produces the Senior News, Library News, What's Going On and Campus News sections. Every few weeks she also writes a feature article which is published in all nine Bee papers.

Holly is assigned to write business stories for our business section, cover the Village of Williamsville Village Board meetings and write the "Someone You Should Know" column in *The Amherst Bee*. She also edits press releases which includes "Amherst Task Force Healthy Community Healthy Youth" column each month.

Additionally, she posts on *The Amherst Bee's* Facebook and Twitter pages weekly using the social media management platform, Hootsuite. She also obtains and edits the Amherst Police Department blotter items and process the wedding, anniversary and engagement announcements for all of the Bee papers.

During production, she lays out the lifestyle pages for *The Amherst Bee* which includes the following sections: Senior News, Library News, What's Going On, Youth News, Campus News, "Amherst Task Force Healthy Community Healthy Youth" column, lifestyle articles and photos.

The judges said, "I really liked the range of her writing. Hard news, columns, features. What little photography that was included looked OK, too. An outstanding young professional."



SECOND PLACE: KATE RIGA, THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION

Kate Riga, 23, has been a reporter for *The Southampton Press* since June 2017, a month after she graduated with an American Studies degree from Georgetown University. She grew up just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the past seven months, Riga has covered state and national politics for the paper, due to her background working on Capitol Hill during college. She also wrote on a myriad of local issues, including government, crime, education, religion and environmental topics.

While at Georgetown University, Riga wrote an opinion column for *The Hoya* on the intersection of gender and politics. She also interned for *America* magazine.

The judges said, "Outstanding young talent in all phases. She would be an asset to any staff."



THIRD PLACE: DAVID YARGER, NIAGARA WHEATFIELD TRIBUNE

David Yarger is the editor of the *Niagara-Wheatfield/North Tonawanda Tribune*, a weekly newspaper available each Thursday in the Town of Wheatfield, Town of Niagara and City of North Tonawanda.

Yarger has been employed with Niagara Frontier Publications since late August as the editor of the *Niagara-Wheatfield/North Tonawanda Tribune*. Yarger graduated from Niagara University with a degree in communication studies. While at NU, Yarger played a key role in the revival of NU's student-run newspaper, *The Niagara Wire*. He was part of the sports department for the newspaper.

As a senior in college, Yarger interned at *Niagara Frontier Publications* and quickly gained professional experiences to benefit his career as writer, reporter and editor. The internship led him to freelance opportunities with *Niagara Frontier Publications*, the *Buffalo News* and the *Niagara Gazette*.

Although sports writing is his biggest passion, Yarger has tackled political news, community news stories, school activities and local events.

The judges said, "Good work all round. I liked the range. Demonstrated very solid abilities in all phases.."



Excellence Awards

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

This paper includes everything that needs to be there — meeting coverage, police news, etc. — but goes above and beyond with a fantastic collection of stories about people. We loved their Page 1 coverage of a missing dog that was returned to its owners after a frantic search; the touching story about a 102-year-old man who nearly died in a hit-and-run crash while driving his scooter; a local graduate who didn't let cancer slow her down; and a village clerk meeting a man she helped save. Very strong artwork, especially of the 102-year-old man recovering from the scooter crash and the football team finishing off an undefeated season. The layout for that team capping a 12-0 campaign was the far and away the best we saw. We also liked the cutout with the Historic Opening story. Strong local editorials didn't back down from tough topics such as opioids and tainted drinking water. Nice community pages; In Your Neighborhood; On the Town features. Advertisements made great use of color. In a collection of outstanding newspapers, we felt this was the best of the best.

SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead

Many of the papers we reviewed were tabloid sized publications; this one was the most impressive of the bunch. Great Page 1 features about battling teen suicide; the conclusion of a long-running murder train; and families honored at a local graduation. The reporters did a fantastic job of drawing in the reader in all three stories. We also liked the feature, including a great headline, on the tribute to the area's first black firefighter. Strong local editorials. We liked the Neighborhood News section, where contributors shared what's happening in various communities.

THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Strong Page 1 features, especially the in-depth look at a lack of affordable housing; and we liked the presentation of the Coming Attractions at a new local theater. We did, however, feel that the oversized front pages were too busy — too much going on — and made it difficult to focus on any one aspect of the page. Editorials tackled local issues; and we really liked the community engagement, with local residents answering "The Question" and the "Conversation" feature. Great variety of local content, including photo galleries from various events around town. Outstanding photo of the soccer player pumping up his team before a big game.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald, Rockville Centre

This publication seemed to be genuinely engaged with the community. They do a great job of finding a story within the story — instead of just covering the school graduation they did a great feature on the Salutatorian having spinal muscular atrophy and overcoming those challenges. That's engaging. Local elections are always items of great interest and the Election Guide this publication produced was top notch and very thorough. Wrapping the "First on the Scene" section around the outside of the regular newspaper that day was a great way to pay tribute to a very important part of the community. Loved the "When I Grow Up" section. Who wouldn't read that. Very creative and well designed. The Arts & Entertainment pages were very vibrant. Good looking ads, and well-designed pages. Excellent job all around.

SECOND PLACE

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach
Anthony Rifilato and Bridget Downes

Great story about the resident still displaced five years after Hurricane Sandy. It's easy to move on to the next issue, but this publication did a great job of educating people that five years later there still are problems some people are dealing with. Good pictures on front pages. Halloween Safety page was well designed. Creative that it stuck out of the bottom so readers easily saw it.

THIRD PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton

A very modern, upscale look that was refreshing to the eyes. The big photos on the front page make you want to start flipping through the pages. The non-traditional look, feel and design works well for them. I felt like I was familiar with the community after reading.

"ROOKIE" REPORTER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Holly Lipka

I really liked the range of her writing. Hard news, columns, features. The photography that was included looked good, too. An outstanding young professional.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

Kate Riga

Outstanding young talent in all phases. She would be an asset to any staff.

THIRD PLACE

Niagara Wheatfield Tribune, Niagara Falls

David Yarger

Good work all round. I liked the range. Demonstrated very solid abilities in all phases.

HONORABLE MENTION

Williston Times, Williston Park
Janelle Clausen

A young reporter and writer with very mature talents. Good range, in terms of her ability to take on different kinds of writing assignments.

WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

City & State, New York
Frank G. Runyeon

What separated this writer's entry from the rest of the field was his depth of reporting. The pieces were engaging, allowing him to keep a reader's interest while tackling subjects some writers would overcomplicate. His entry was the most versatile in terms of strong entries in both news and feature stories.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

Amanda Bernocco

This entry rose to the top because the writer had strong features mixed with strong news stories. The feature on the old school journals was fun to read while the "Immigrants share their fears..." story covered the subject as well as any of the other entries on the topic. The entries showcased the writer's wide-ranging talents.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Christopher Barca

This entry shows the writer is an advocate for the community through these news stories. The writing was supported by good reporting. I would like to have seen another feature story.

HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany
Chelsea Diana

SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Gavin Menu

This writer is equally adept at providing an interesting take on feature stories and game stories.

SECOND PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Brian Radewitz

This writer consistently brings his subjects to life, making the stories about them, not him.

THIRD PLACE

Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Matt Michael

This writer gets to the point and doesn't pull punches with a fun writing style.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller

The photographer showed great imagination in creating the images, creative angles, every photo made me feel like I was in the scene.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Peter R. Barber

The images showed so much emotion. I felt a strong connection to every image.

THIRD PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx
Adi Talwar

The photographer did a great job of turning everyday events into images you wanted to dive deeper into.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson
Tim Lamorte

Some compelling images in the group, nice use of light and space.

BEST FRONT PAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Warsaw's Country Courier, Warsaw
Natalie Muster

Really nice use of white space and color. The pages reviewed were easy to navigate, a key element in page design.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Kate Vikstrom

Easy to navigate design. Eye catching. Liked the overall look of the pages.

THIRD PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park
Noah Manskar and Adam Schrader

Good white space use. Liked the use of fine rules to separate content. Easy to find your way around in.

HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walser

Nice use of art on banner pages.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Lauren Sisson, Joe Werkmeister and Steve Wick

Good use of white space and color. Coherent layout. Nice presentation.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Maria Gennaro and Joe Werkmeister

I like the gradients used. Nice layout and design. Good use of color, too.

THIRD PLACE

Buffalo Law Journal, Buffalo
Michael Canfield

Very simple yet elegant design. Like the use of photos. Big and bold.

HONORABLE MENTION

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach
Anthony Rifilato and Bridget Downes

Very traditional yet appealing design. Nice use of art, color.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Bay Ridge Courier, Bay Ridge
Vince DiMiceli and Bill Egbert
Strong headlines supported by good art.

SECOND PLACE

Westbury Times, Westbury
Kevin Schmidt

Headlines fonts are strong and clean. Nice large photo usage.

THIRD PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea
John Napoli and Scott Stiffler

Strong art play separated this entry from others.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Well-defined centerpieces highlighted by good headline writing. Elements play well together top to bottom.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Elements play well. Likely could have challenged for first but would suggest different play on elections next time around.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach
Creative masthead and nice use of whitespace. Great unique photos.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Editorial topics are varied, well written, on point and encourage action. Strong local focus. Community involvement is obvious in letters and guest columnists, adding varied voices. Headlines are clearly written. Design leans toward simple/traditional, but it is clean so as not to distract from content.

SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Content is witty, pointed and original. Not afraid to take risks. Visually interesting throughout the section. Illustrations and cartoons set it apart from other entries. Topics could be more varied.

THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler, Kelly Cogswell, Ed Sikov, Nathan Riley and Susie Day

Biting commentary from a clearly identified standpoint that represents its readership. While writing is thoughtful and highly informative, it is also often longer than needed. Headlines are entertaining. Design lacks for strong visuals and overall planning.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Could be more visually compelling, but the content is rich with local content that is sure to impact readers. The robust and thoughtful letters indicate a high level of engagement with the community.



Writer of the Year, 2017

There were 46 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE: FRANK G. RUNYEON, CITY & STATE

Frank covers state politics and government with an emphasis on in-depth features and investigative reporting. He writes about intrigue in Albany and beyond, asking how government agencies and policies impact all New Yorkers, occasionally delving into national issues from an Empire State angle. Frank has worked on investigative stories for *National Geographic*, *The New York Times* and *NBC News*. He was a finalist for the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists in 2015 and has received several New York Press Association awards. Frank attended Columbia Graduate School of Journalism in 2012, fell in love with Harlem and never left.

The judges said, "What separated Mr. Runyeon's entry from the rest of the field was his depth of reporting. The pieces were engaging, allowing him to keep a reader's interest while tackling subjects some writers would overcomplicate. His entry was the most versatile in terms of strong entries in both news and feature stories."



SECOND PLACE: AMANDA BERNOCCO, THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - WESTERN EDITION

Amanda Bernocco, 25, has been a reporter for *The Southampton Press* since June 2015, after she graduating with a journalism degree from Long Island University. She grew up in Shirley, New York — just a short drive outside of the Hamptons. Throughout the past two years at *The Southampton Press*, Bernocco has covered an assortment of local issues including government, education, and environmental concerns. While still at Long Island University, Bernocco worked as the managing editor of *The Pioneer*, a student-run weekly newspaper, and as the assistant news director at WCWP, a student-run radio station. Bernocco also interned for Newsday where she wrote about the real estate market.

The judges said, "Ms. Bernocco's entry rose to the top because she had strong features mixed with strong news stories. Her feature on the old school journals was fun to read while her "Immigrants share their fears..." story covered the subject as well as any of the other entries on the topic."



THIRD PLACE: CHRISTOPHER BARCA, QUEENS CHRONICLE

Christopher Barca, a native of New Fairfield, Connecticut, joined the *Queens Chronicle* as a reporter in October 2013 after graduating from St. John's University that May. He has since earned the title of editor, covering all aspects of nine Queens neighborhoods as well as borough sporting events.

During his tenure at the *Chronicle*, Barca has finished first and third in the Sports Writer of the Year category, while contributing pieces to award-winning *Chronicle* submissions in coverage categories ranging from elections and politics to religion and health.

Barca lives in Flushing, Queens with his wife, Amy.

The judges said, "Mr. Barca's entry shows he is an advocate for his community through his news stories. His writing showed he did the job of reporting well. I would have liked to have seen him include another feature story."



HONORABLE MENTION: CHELSEA DIANA, ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

Chelsea Diana covers banking and technology for *The Albany Business Review*.

She joined the *Albany Business Review* Nov. 20, 2014 following graduation from Boston University. She interned at *The Portland Press Herald* in Portland, Maine; *The Lowell Sun*; 90.9 WBUR in Thomson Reuters in London and *The Albany Times Union*.



Excellence Awards

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Very creative displaying of photographs, which are very well reproduced, and taken with an eye for the creative, make this newspaper a standout for first place in the General Excellence category.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Large, well reproduced and well-thought-out photos with good local interest earned the Suffolk Times second place. Photo pages showed a nice variety of photos, and didn't overwhelm the reader with more photos than needed to tell the story.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Strong images, well displayed, gave this newspaper the third-place honor. The reproduction suffered a bit, likely due to press considerations, but photos provided good content with good captions.

OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Melissa Mangini and Kristina Walser
This paper has a very modern overall design. It has great graphics and photography throughout. It keeps you interested and wanting to read more. I really liked the 40 under 40 special section.

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler, Michael Shirey and Marcos Ramos
The overall look of the feature pages are well designed. They have good use of space and color, which draws you in as a reader.

THIRD PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Michael Hallisey
The best parts of this paper were the events calendar, headlines and page headers. I liked that the pages weren't taken over by a huge amount of text. There was a good variety of ads to articles.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Michael Hinman, Richard Stein and Mekea Fishlin
This paper has a very modern masthead that leads you into a well laid out paper. The paper has good typography throughout and I especially enjoyed the design and concept of the Mom and Pop Stores

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
The feature pages of this newspaper are very well designed and draw you in as a reader. The cutout photos/graphics throughout the sports section are also a nice touch. If the front pages and masthead of this paper were better designed, they would be taking home first place.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
The best part about this paper was by far the Hamptons Vacations magazine. This publication was well designed and popped with color throughout.

ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walser
Love, love, love the layout of this paper and the use of info-graphics within the articles! Each page is clean, great use of color throughout and easy to read/follow. The large photos surrounding the articles grab your attention and the layout of the advertisements popped. The actual size of the paper allows for convenient handling. An unanimous vote for first place. Congrats on a job well done!

SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Lauren Sisson
The large photos within the articles really grabbed our attention along with the bold headings and subheads above the articles — it pulled us in, wanting to read more. The layout of editorial copy is very easy to follow and the advertisements appeared to be simple and clean, matching the papers design. The Classified Section and Service Directory was organized and easy on the eyes. Great paper.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Each section of the paper had a nice layout overall and the use of color was pleasing to the eye. We are a big fan of the short, clean articles, keeping us from moving on half way through the story. Some of the photo's accompanying articles could have been larger, would really like to see a few images cut out to create a 3D effect to really make a page POP but the placement of the advertisements was well done.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
The power — and the importance — of community journalism rang true in this entry. Getting a result that will save lives is a wonderful accomplishment for a newspaper.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
It is nice to see a newspaper use its resources to better its community in a meaningful way. If we as journalists don't, who will? This is the type of series that shows the relevance of community journalism.

THIRD PLACE

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach
Anthony Rifilato, Bridget Downes and Scott Brinton
Good work. It was nice to see the community response continue. Another example of community journalism doing good!

HONORABLE MENTION

The Freeman's Journal, Cooperstown
Jim Kevelin
There is no doubt this was a successful event. It could have placed higher had the entry provided more substance on the issue. I would liked to have seen a story regarding the issue, much like the letter. I cannot tell from the entry whether that was done. Reporting from the event would also have helped the entry. The issue was not fleshed out, in my opinion, by what was submitted.

BEST NEWS WEB SITE

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
This website did what other sites did, but in a way that was easier to navigate and much less overwhelming. The site also incorporated some strong multimedia features, enhancing any printed story. Strong local content was easy to find.

SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
This website's story layout was an excellent way to showcase photos and draw the reader in (the way a photo flows through a story). It was also nice to see print editions being teased on the site. The site was easy to navigate and served as a good guide for the local area as well.

THIRD PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Navigation, content and ease of use were good, but could be a little beefier. The multimedia section was strong, which led to it being in the top three.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
The site was engaging and navigation was clean for a site with a lot of categories. However, it seems as if everything is given the same weight. It's like a front page with headlines and stories that are the exact same size. It would have been in the top three had it had some form of multimedia (or some that I could find).

THOMAS G. BUTSON AWARD FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
The staff of this newspaper turned out a series of stories and graphics that perfectly demonstrates what this award is all about. It's an exhaustive report about opioids that's written well and laid out attractively.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
Elizabeth Floyd Mair
Many papers would have written about the death of Justus Booze with adequate coverage, but this writer didn't stop there. She made the effort to dig deep into the issue and approach it from several angles. She shows what initiative and hard work can accomplish.

THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Stephen J. Kotz, Kathryn G. Menu and Christine Sampson
The third place award moves away from investigative to the other half of the category: in-depth. This paper shows how to take a local event — one that could have been covered in a single story — and turn it into a much more meaningful report. The stories approach the topic from various directions and it's all put together well.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Steve Wick, Grant Parpan and Krysten Massa
I was hoping that the no. 1 choice would jump out and grab me, but it didn't happen until final entry of the contest was opened — the story about the disappearance of Louise Pietrewicz. Not only is this the most compelling entry submitted, it also shows the best design work, and design can play a big part in drawing in a reader. The staff created an excellent report. It's a job very well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
James Franco
The reporter shows what dogged determination can produce. The series provides an exhaustive look at questions surrounding a state agency. The stories are well written and leave readers fully informed.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Joe Werkmeister and Kelly Zegers
The writers take on teen suicide issue from many angles, putting together a report that should provide insight for readers. The story is clearly written and, as a bonus, attractively packaged. The writers give a strong example of how to look behind the obvious and take a deeper look at an issue.

HONORABLE MENTION

Albany Business Review, Albany
Michael DeMasi

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald, Lynbrook
Mike Smollins
This is what being a newspaper is all about. Making staff available to hear issues in a community. Following up on a tip of a scam artist. Nailing the scam artist and spurring criminal action. I'm very excited about awarding this series of reports First Place place for showing the need of a strong free press.

SECOND PLACE

The Valley News, Elizabethtown
Pete DeMola
This series of stories not only flags a problem in the community about the decline in home care services for the sick and elderly, but puts a face on the problem and a ray of light for solutions. A powerful collection of stories.

THIRD PLACE

Long Island Press, Syosset
Timothy Bolger
An amazing amount of work in ranking 196 governmental entities' responses to FOIA. The organization and time this must have been tremendous. Hopefully it brought about change in how organizations respond to being more accessible to the public.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Villager (NYC), New York
Lincoln Anderson and Tequila Minsky
These articles put a local face on a national issue through some aggressive reporting and strong interviews.

COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
There was obviously plenty of research behind this story and a solid explanation of the impact of the controversial tax exemption. Graphics helped to visually tell the story.

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Michael Wright
Reporting on important issues, including taxes with the reassessment call, a budget turnaround, a changing political scene and a look at political ethics with the Councilman-Elect Sheds. Stories emphasize the bigger picture on what they mean to the readers.

THIRD PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson
Articles reflect in depth reporting, especially the articles on the impact of the bridge repair project, the veterans tax, and the proposed court consolidation.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong and Chip Rowe
Interesting articles, and well explained. However, some of the key issues and comments come late in the stories. Should move them up, such as the solution to the home's encroachment of the historical right-of-way and reaction to the delay in reviewing the Horton Road project.



Sports Writer of the Year, 2017

There were 18 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE: GAVIN MENU, THE SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

Gavin became a sports writer shortly after graduating from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he played four years of varsity football. His first job was at *The Independent* newspaper where he met his future wife, Kathryn. Gavin, 41, moved to The Southampton Press in 2004 and began writing for the news section as well as the sports section, winning his first NYPA award for Best Feature Story for a piece he did on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion (the piece was heavily edited by his now-News Editor and NYPA's 2016 Writer of the Year, Stephen J. Kotz).

By 2007, Gavin and Kathryn realized their reporter salaries combined would not sustain a life on the East End of Long Island, so Gavin moved over to sales, where he helped successfully launch *The East Hampton Press*. He also continued to write as much as possible, since the editorial side of the business remained his true passion.

In 2012, Bryan Boyhan, the then-publisher and editor of *The Sag Harbor Express*, asked Gavin to run his sales department at *The Express* where Kathryn was already entrenched as a long time reporter. In 2014, Gavin and Kathryn became co-publishers and today continue to work-side-by-side with Boyhan. Over the last five years, their *Express Magazine* series has nearly doubled in terms of circulation and advertising sales. The newspaper has seen sales increases year-over-year for four consecutive years.

The judges said, "Gavin is equally adept at providing an interesting take on feature stories and game stories."



SECOND PLACE: BRIAN RADEWITZ, REGISTER-STAR

Brian Radewitz has been covering local and national sports since graduating from St. John's University in 2006. Brian has been working for the *Register-Star* and *The Daily Mail* newspapers for 10 years and worked as a publications manager for seven magazines on Long Island for a year. He has also written for national magazines, websites and blogs and is the current sports editor for *Columbia-Greene Media*.

The judges said, "Brian consistently brings his subjects to life, making the stories about them, not him."



THIRD PLACE: MATT MICHAEL, SYRACUSE NEW TIMES

Matt Michael is an award-winning journalist who has been writing professionally since the mid-1980s, even before he graduated from Pennsylvania State University as a member of the Kappa Tau Alpha National Journalism Society. He spent nearly 20 years as a sports writer, news writer and investigative reporter at *The Post-Standard* in Syracuse, N.Y. — a newspaper that regularly ranked among the nation's best mid-size newspapers during his time there. Matt currently works as a freelance writer for the *Syracuse New Times* newspaper, *The Sports Xchange* and other media outlets, and co-hosts a baseball radio show on ESPN radio in Syracuse.

Now that his two children and two stepchildren have graduated from college, Matt lives quietly in Liverpool, N.Y., with wife Robin and dog Griffin.

The judges said, "Matt gets to the point and doesn't pull punches with a fun writing style."



Excellence Awards

COVERAGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Christopher Barca, Michael Gannon and Anthony O'Reilly

This is what watchdog journalism is about and nobody does it better than local papers reporting on the issues that affect its readers. This is a great example of a newspaper being a watchdog and reporting on the issues that readers want to know about, care about and express their passion about. There is no doubt the reporters had their readers in mind as they worked on their reporting. Outstanding job.

SECOND PLACE

North Country This Week, Potsdam
Jimmy Lawton and Andy Gardner
One of the most important responsibilities of a newspaper is to show readers exactly how local government operates, be it spending, decision making or public safety and trust. This entry takes that responsibility seriously and successfully. The newspaper's readers have a better understanding of their local government because these reporters did an outstanding job.

THIRD PLACE

The Photo News, Monroe
Bob Quinn and Nancy Kriz
This is an excellent example of thorough reporting. The reporters didn't leave readers needing more information on the subjects. They presented them in a well-thought out manner and left me wanting to know how things turn out in the future. That is what good journalism does, it makes readers want to come

HONORABLE MENTION

The Smithtown News, Smithtown
David Ambro
Readers also become the subject of news stories sometimes, their passion for knowing turns into passion that puts them into the story. This author does a great job of capturing all sides of the story without losing the passion of those involved. I felt like I had a vested interest in the firehouse.

COVERAGE OF EDUCATION

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Team does a nice job of covering a variety of education topics appealing to readers' interest as taxpayers, parents, students and educators. Strive for freshness of language - avoid clichés like "no stone unturned" - and more photos of people doing things. Consider presenting data in infographic form.

SECOND PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo
Dan Miner and Scott Thomas
Team covers a good variety of topics. Highlights include photojournalism, good layout, infographics well handled. Lacks quotes, in general, and lacks student focus specifically.

THIRD PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson
Nice variety of stories with a student, parent and taxpayer focus. You are clearly writing for the readers and not the sources. Tighten ledes. Rewrite for clarity and interest. Eschew jargon and muddled edu-speak and embrace clear writing with active verbs.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Nicole Smith, Joe Werkmeister and Grant Parpan
Good variety, of coverage, but keep focus on how it impacts the reader. Why should the reader care? Consider presenting some of the numbers and factual basics as graphics or charts. Get student perspective. Strive for photojournalism — candid photos of people doing things related to the story — not posed photos.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick
Joseph Picard, Erika Norton, Linda Smith-Hancharick and Pamela Chergotis
The stories here are well-written, well-sourced and do a good job of tackling broad issues in a local context.

SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Nick Reynolds and Matt Butler
There's some exceptional reporting and writing here, particularly in the piece on the service program in New Orleans.

THIRD PLACE

Bellmore Herald Life, Bellmore
Erik Hawkins, Brian Stieglitz and Scott Brinton
These are well executed stories. The series on trends in present-day education, in particular, is ambitious and does a nice job of putting local events into a broader context.

COVERAGE OF BUSINESS, FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC NEWS

FIRST PLACE -

NON BUSINESS PUBLICATION
North Country This Week, Potsdam
Andy Gardner, Jimmy Lawton, Matt Lindsey and Jimmy Lawton
Entries rose above the rest by providing serious depth to the reporting. Particularly liked the initiative in going after the details on the costs of air ambulance flights. At every turn seemed to seek and get more answers for each story. Great coverage.

FIRST PLACE -

BUSINESS PUBLICATION
Albany Business Review, Albany
Standout entries shined in both their depth and accessibility to readers. Lengthy stories can become a slog, whereas these were nicely segmented, with crisp writing and organized to be highly informative. The look into the wedding industry was particularly interesting and well-done.

SECOND PLACE -

NON BUSINESS PUBLICATION
The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Great local news, great depth, well-organized, vital reporting on business. Good instincts in telling personal stories whenever possible to keep the topic relevant for readers.

SECOND PLACE -

BUSINESS PUBLICATION
Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo
Tracey Drury, Dan Miner and Allissa Kline
A close second, the research and knowledge in each story was very apparent. Infographics made the information dump easy to digest and clearly highlighted the trends each story was trying to stress. Well-written, solid entries — especially the look at hospital finances.

THIRD PLACE -

NON BUSINESS PUBLICATION
The Chronicle, Goshen
Erika Norton, Fran Harris and Pam Chergotis
While limited to the Legoland issue, this is just fantastic reporting — digging into the ramifications of the development, presenting thorough articles, going after root issues that were likely some tricky waters to navigate. Great investigative work, solid writing.

THIRD PLACE -

BUSINESS PUBLICATION
New York Law Journal, New York
Christine Simmons
In-depth compilation plus analysis and supporting hotlinks made for a very information-rich set of articles for this niche of reporting.

HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Christopher Barca and Anthony O'Reilly
Great reporting that, while it wasn't necessarily as in-depth as some of the other winners, was worthy of recognition. A lively voice, good connection to the community.

COVERAGE OF THE ARTS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Colonie-Loudonville Spotlight, Colonie
Michael Hallisey and Kaitlin Lembo
The use of photos and art as well as short but strong headlines made this entry an entertaining and an enjoyable read.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Alison Rooney and Brian PJ Cronin
The writing was amusing at times and very enjoyable to read. The play on headlines - "Down the Rabb(b)it Hole with Ron English" — and subhead for "Sharing the Beat" also made the product fun to read.

THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michelle Trawing and Annette Hinkle
Excellent product. The use of photos, headlines and strong writing skills makes this product attractive to view and interesting to read.

HONORABLE MENTION

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Ben Beagle
There's a lot of text for the Suny Geneseo story but the use of Q&A made it an easy read. I like the combination of art/music stories and hometown newsy briefs.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Downtown Express, New York
Charles Battersby, Stephanie Buhmann, Puma Perl, Trav S.D., Scott Stiffler and Stephanie Buhmann
Great stories. Loved the story on tattoos, especially. Compelling photos.

SECOND PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea
Stephanie. Buhmann, G. Busby, Sean Egan, R. Richardson and Scott Stiffler
It's nice to read about an artist overcoming adversity to succeed.

THIRD PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Bill Buell, Jeff Wilkin, Geraldine Freedman and Karen Bjornland
Awesome photos, accompanied by so many in-depth articles. Good job! Photos of the auditoriums, dancers and from Vietnam showed the artistic talent of the photographer.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Michael Tessler
Nice photos and a insightful story on the characters portraying a beloved classic.

COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

FIRST PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Nick Reynolds
Strong art, attractive design and nice use of pull quotes and graphics help break up the gray and draw readers in to important topics like water quality, flooding, energy consumption and climate change.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach
Amanda Bernocco, Kate Riga and Erin McKinley
Strong art helps along interesting stories about the next generation of pine trees and an open-sea fish farm. A map is also helpful in understanding a story about land development.

THIRD PLACE

GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue
Michael White and Alyssa Vera
Stories address the negative effects plastics and Styrofoams have on the environment, and what some are doing to address the issue. Also, coffee grounds for compost? What a great idea — one more communities could probably adopt.

HONORABLE MENTION

Mill Marine Courier, Brooklyn
Caroline Spivack and Julianne McShane
The focus is on one topic, but it's an important one: an oil spill. The reporters do a good job of ensuring the public knows about the spill, which wasn't reported to local officials in a timely manner, and explaining why the public wasn't notified faster.

COVERAGE OF HEALTH, HEALTH CARE & SCIENCE

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Kelly Zegers, Joe Werkmeister, Nicole Smith and Krysten Massa
The stories fit the category but are noteworthy for putting real people into them. Unlike many stories that focus on comments from officials, I think it was terrific that the stories featured real residents who suffered from diseases, to overcome a terrible accident injury or volunteered for hours at their area hospital.

SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Nick Reynolds, Matt Butler and Austin Lamb
A very interesting, informative mix of stories ranging from an info war on global warming, the evolution of apples, the impact of a food pantry closing on local residents and projected impact of global warming on the Finger Lakes area. Well-thought out and written with local connections in mind.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Michael Turton, Brian PJ Cronin, Chip Rowe and Jeff Simms
Interesting selection of stories about natural hazards from ticks and snakes to a doctor who sees patients by subscription, medical marijuana and concerns about cuts to ACA. Well-written and informative with plenty of graphics/photos on the snake and tick stores.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
Sara Foss
Writer does a good job as a columnist looking at infant mortality rates, particularly in the African American community where there are significantly higher death rates. Also support for breastfeeding, which also lags in the African American community.

HEADLINE WRITING

FIRST PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Vince DiMiceli, Anthony Rotunno and Leah Mitch
Punchy, descriptive, on-point headlines show a lot of thought and creativity. Even the headlines that weren't featured were crafted well. Excellent job.

SECOND PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Katie McFadden
Big, loud claps for these headlines. These short puns are well timed and appropriate.

THIRD PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea
Scott Stiffler
Smart headlines through and through. Both selections from this newspaper were very good. Subheads explain the pithy headline.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald, Lynbrook
Mike Smollins and Melissa Koenig
The "Un-bee-lievable" headline about a bee hunter being given a rough time is probably my favorite of the entire competitions. The others are strong, as well.



Photographer of the Year, 2017

There were 20 entries in this category



FIRST PLACE: MICHAEL HELLER, THE SAG HARBOR EXPRESS

Michael Heller is a graduate of Bard College and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. He has won numerous awards from NYPA including Photographer of the Year in 2011 and 2014, second place Photographer of the Year in 2010 and 2015, and third place in 2013.

He has been an active firefighter for more than 25 years, and is a past president of the International Fire Photographers Association.

The judges said, "The photographer showed great imagination in creating the images, creative angles, every photo made me feel like I was in the scene."



SECOND PLACE: PETER R. BARBER, THE DAILY GAZETTE

Peter Barber was born and raised in Buffalo and started his career in photography as a freelancer for The Associated Press and *The Buffalo News*. He moved to Watertown in 1987 and joined *The Watertown Daily Times* as a staff photographer, where he worked for nearly 15 years. In 2002 he moved to Schenectady and began working as a photographer for *The Daily Gazette*. Peter is best known for his spot news coverage of fires and crimes along with any sporting event; his favorite to cover! He has received dozens of Associated Press awards in recognition of his photography. He also worked as a volunteer firefighter for 10 years at Niskayuna Fire District 1 before retiring in 2012.

The judges said, "The images showed such emotion. I felt a connection to every image."



THIRD PLACE: ADI TALWAR, NORWOOD NEWS

Adi Talwar, a 13-year Bronx resident, was born in Delhi, India, to an artist mother and engineer father. He has been involved with art and engineering all his life. During his 25-year career as an artist, he has expressed himself as a designer, model maker and photographer.

Over the last five years, Mr. Talwar has been working on his awareness of light and the moment. He has received awards for his photojournalism and has been published in the *Norwood News*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Daily News*, *City Limits Magazine*, *Next American City Magazine*, *MetroFocus*, WNYC and several other news magazines and local papers.

Mr. Talwar lives in the Bronx with his artist wife and bubbly beautiful daughter.

Judges said, "The photographer did a great job of turning everyday events into images you wanted dive deeper into."



HONORABLE MENTION: TIM LAMORTE, THE RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Tim Lamorte has worked as a newspaper editor for more than 20 years, including 17 at *The Rivertowns Enterprise*. 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 five 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.

Judges said, "Some compelling images in the group, nice use of light and space."



Excellence Awards

COVERAGE OF CRIME/POLICE/COURTS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan, Steve Wick, Kelly Zegers and Taylor K. Vecsey
None of the stories was run of the mill. All three were well-written and informative. Great team work on the Gone package. I'm sure it took a lot of time and legwork to compile that story which was fascinating.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont
I particularly liked the initiative shown with the story regarding the prison and families of inmates. Also, the stories about the different outcomes for defendants in two cases puts those issues in perspective for readers by going beyond just stating the facts.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Michael Turton, Jeff Simms, Brian PJ Cronin and Chip Rowe
Excellent job trying to get your arms around the opioid crisis and different views on how to address the issue. I particularly enjoyed the story on the game officers. The KKK history was also interesting.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Christopher Barca, Ryan Brady, Mike Gannon and Anthony O'Reilly
Some interesting takes for readers who might not expect this. Problems explained well in "Credmore."

SECOND PLACE

New York Law Journal, New York
Andrew Denney
Interesting behind the scenes look at state court system and how it impacts everyday people in ways they would not necessarily expect.

THIRD PLACE

Oceanside Island Park Herald, Oceanside
Peter Belfiore, Zach Gottehrer-Cohen and Ben Strack
Solid reporting.

HONORABLE MENTION

Register-Star, Hudson
Amanda Purcell

COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS/POLITICS

FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Tim Gannon, Kelly Zegers, Joe Werkmeister and Grant Parpan
A well written mix of stories that look at a variety of local political issues from the election of the first woman to town supervisor, to a campaign finances, to a judge deciding a ballot issue.

SECOND PLACE

Bay Ridge Courier, Bay Ridge
Julianne McShane and Julianne Cuba
A strong contender gives potential voters an extensive look at each of the candidates for an upcoming primary. Very well done.

THIRD PLACE

Long Island Press, Syosset
Spencer Rumsey, Chris Twarowski, Jaime Franchi and Rashed Mian
Well done and well written, particularly the Primary Primer focusing on recent political scandals and the piece on three women who "shattered glass ceilings."

HONORABLE MENTION

City & State, New York
Jeff Coltin, Frank G. Runyeon, Grace Segers and Aimée Simpiere
There is lots of superb content here, including prose and graphics.

COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Glynis Hart
Wonderful reading about real, hardworking people. Loved the photos, as well.

SECOND PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Matt Butler and Isabella Grullón Paz
Immigration is such a relevant topic right now. The author's extra effort to dig in to what it's like to live in the shadows just to make a decent living was appreciated. Community gardens are popping up all over and this well written story highlights their importance.

THIRD PLACE

The Freeman's Journal, Cooperstown
Libby Cudmore
Great story about buffalo. Great photos.

COVERAGE OF RELIGION

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
If these two issues are representative of the rest of the year, the paper seems truly invested in religious news, with multiple stories per issue just from day-to-day beat coverage. The most comprehensive coverage of any entry.

SECOND PLACE

The Photo News, Monroe
Bob Quinn and Doug Feiden
These stories do a nice job of explaining the impact the Kiryas Joel community is having on the area. The double-truck graphic accompanying the pipeline story was a nice touch.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Anthony O'Reilly
Two religion stories that aren't entirely about religion. One deals with congregants bringing guns to church, and the other deals with beach clean-up.

SPORTS FEATURE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Robin K. Cooper
An excellent, in-depth and entertaining look at how a minor league team makes it all work. The photos and graphs are easy to follow and lots of add value to the story. At a time when getting the most for your dollar at a sporting event is important to the average fan, this story does a great job looking at all the ValleyCats do to keep their fans coming to the ballpark.

SECOND PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid
Andy Flynn
This writer does a fantastic job covering all aspects of this once in a lifetime experience for hockey players. The paper covers it all, from the campers, to the Miracle on Ice alums to the historical significance of the Miracle on Ice itself. Kudos for gutting it out to provide superb coverage of this event.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Robin K. Cooper
A great look at the importance of sports and football to the Albany area. The pull quotes and graphics accompanying the story add great perspectives and the story draws on a variety of sources to get to the heart of what sports are all about: a love of the game.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo
Paul Lane
Do you have a question about the pay of professional athletes? This in-depth comprehensive feature will answer it. Very well written and obviously a lot of research went into it with a plethora of fact boxes and charts. It delves into a lot of aspects of the lives of professional athletes - and all the barriers and obstacles they face - including serious injury.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Cailin Riley
Something that has come to the fore in many coaches' experiences. With a change in culture comes change in attitudes. Many a gifted athlete has been ruined by a parent's overbearing attitude in athletics in the past, but now that wrath has seemed to turn on the coaching staff. This is an interesting look at the casualties that occur from overzealous parents, and how some coaches are trying to cope with the new trend.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Bob Liepa
A heart-tugging story about a coaching legend. The feature delves into the deceased coach's legacy and what he left behind. I liked how it begins through his wife's eyes, making him human, instead of just a figure on the court. The writer does a good job describing and capturing the essence of his subject, yet also letting the readers know all this coach had accomplished.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Sean Brennan
A wonderful yarn about a coach who retires then comes back to the field to coach baseball - at the age of 75. The writer shows how much his return to the field has helped his health and enjoyment of life. The writer also used a bit of humor to capture what would happen in a few years if this man stayed coaching. The reason this is honorable mention is I would have liked to hear from one of the young players about the impact the coach has had on the team - that would have captured the whole picture. Otherwise, it was a strong feature on an interesting subject.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Brian Radewitz
The writer brings history to life in telling the story of Sonny Arnold, giving meaning to a name on an award.

SECOND PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Joey LaFranca
The next thing I am doing is checking out the Babe Ruth website. Joey adds depth to a great American hero and his legacy.

THIRD PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Tim Martin
The writer put me in the car with Kidd's family, then in the gym and in the classroom with his hopes and future on the line.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Bob Liepa and Michael Lewis
The best written and designed section with outstanding use of art. A very professional product.

SECOND PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise, Hastings-on-Hudson
Good writing, with strong design and use of art while providing a lot of information for the readers.

THIRD PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence
Tony Bellissimo and Jeff Negrin
Two great sections with superior design and organization.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Gavin Menu
Great writing and great design deserves mention.

SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
This entry was the clear winner in terms of extensive coverage. The staff did a nice job varying the content by including the Q&A with a congressman and the "What brought you to march..." feature with photos of local participants.

SECOND PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Chris Knight
The writer did a good job interviewing and including a lot of voices in these stories that likely helped inform the reader without being sensational.

THIRD PLACE

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid
Antonio Olivero, Andy Flynn and Chris Knight
This entry did a good job of telling the story with a range of news angles and great photos.

HONORABLE MENTION

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Antonio Olivero, Ben Gocker, Chris Knight and Lou Reuter
The staff did a great job of getting news and photos of a snowstorm that was still underway at press time. Obviously, they didn't let the weather stop them from doing their jobs!

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald, Rockville Centre
Ben Strack, Jeff Bessen and Scott Brinton
Great job of localizing a national news story on a deadline. Shows what organizing a staff on a focused effort can bring a story to readers quickly.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
Greg Wehner
The reporter did a great job pulling together so many details trying to make sense of this tragic event.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Tim Gannon
Author thoroughly described the two rescues, the challenges in both and the involvement of the rescuers. Several of those involved were interviewed and added to the story. The writer did a fine job separating the two incidents while also connecting them.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Western Edition, Westhampton Beach
Erin McKinley and Mike Wright
Clearly written story.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Denise A. Raymo, Lois Clermont and Cara Chapman
A fine job of reporting, including a report of the shooting, response by friends and acquaintances, and a story about the impact to the victim's workplace. Well written.

SECOND PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Anthony O'Reilly
Very thorough coverage on the suspect's arrest and great use of background on the murder, and the issue of using familial DNA. Obviously a lot of work was done on gathering information and quotes. Great job.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Courier, Queens
Suzanne Monteverdi and Robert Pozarycki
Very clean writing. Sidebar on the driver's troubled driving history brings to light an important issue in transportation safety.

HONORABLE MENTION

Norwood News, Bronx
David Cruz
Solid reporting in a difficult situation.

Best Front Page, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
NATALIE MUSTER, WARSAW'S COUNTRY COURIER

"Really nice use of white space and color.
The pages reviewed were easy to navigate, a key element in page design."

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
LAUREN SISSON, JOE WERKMEISTER, STEVE WICK, THE NEWS-REVIEW

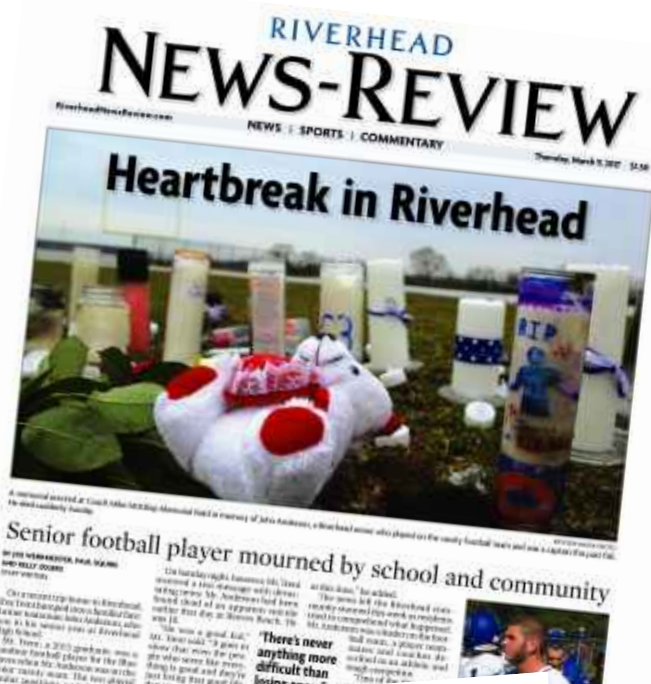
"Good use of white space and color. Coherent layout. Nice presentation."

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3
VINCE DIMICELI, BILL EGBERT, BAY RIDGE COURIER

"Strong headlines supported by good art."

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4
THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS - EASTERN EDITION

"Well-defined centerpieces highlighted by good headline writing.
Elements play well together top to bottom."



Excellence Awards

NEWS STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

An amazing story made more impactful by several twists and turns, including the timely Raise the Age legislation. The article is full of police records, court records, and in-depth interviews. The number of parties involved to report the issues completely is dizzying, yet the reporter keeps the writing clear.

SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Stephen J. Kotz

From million dollar homes, new investors and proposed 6,000-square-foot builds, to abandoned homes and the area's history of post-Civil War racial divides, what else is left in this article about real estate? A bit of a meandering article, but a great deal of information and depth.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,
Saranac Lake

Griffin Kelly

An article that surely had the community talking. Exhaustive work to contact those involved and piece together the events of the drowning are obvious. While impactful, the lede could be stronger and editing mistakes are distracting.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current, Philipstown

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The drama of a lawsuit and its impact on an ensuing election unfold. Article contains a good deal of research, background and explaining. The history of other developer lawsuits also adds depth.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Matt Leader

The writer literally walked the streets to get immediate feedback on a controversial issue. Many of us don't feel like we have the time to do this kind of reporting but it's obviously worthwhile.

SECOND PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Ben Beagle

This entry hit on many of the contest's criteria, especially its use of sources, completeness of coverage and good use of paragraph structure with subheads.

THIRD PLACE

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora
Shelly Ferullo

This story shows the reporter did a lot of work and uncovered vital information that residents deserved to know about their elected officials. Impressive!

HONORABLE MENTION

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo
Dan Miner

Reporting the news is one thing but offering insights into how local matters can play out on a bigger stage is very important too. This entry has good use of visuals and the layout is clean and easy to read.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Freeport Herald Leader, Freeport
*Nadya Nataly, Scott Brinton,
Erik Hawkins, Brian Stieglitz
and Christine Daly*

Excellent job tag-teaming the coverage of this breaking and dramatic story; excellent follow-up coverage too. Inclusion of the Governors proposed investment in gang prevention and the editorial that includes vital information and applicable steps for the community shows the staff's commitment to their community.

SECOND PLACE

Rockville Centre Herald,
Rockville Centre

Peter Belfiore and Scott Brinton

Strong lede. Splendid unbiased coverage of what was surely a very sensitive subject.

THIRD PLACE

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Zak Kostro

Good lede. Wonderful job standing your ground. Solid unbiased reporting.

DIVISION 5

FIRST PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx
David Cruz

This is the kind of reporting that can make a difference in a community: exposing possible wrong-doing that impacts the lives of real people. Took someone like me (a non-New Yorker) time to understand the dynamics, but after giving us the up-front news, the writer walked me through it in the fourth and fifth graphs. From there everything made sense to an outsider — and only reinforced the strength of the article to those who already understand the issues. Fundamental reporting at its best.

SECOND PLACE

Times Newsweekly, Queens
Robert Pozarycki

This is the way it's done: Clear lede with a hook: "Think again." Yes, the reference to Penn Station, etc., is something the locals would understand (not me), but it creates a larger context. And the "train pain" line is a good one. I also liked the imagery in the fourth graph (one critique: the graphs are too long): "Like a boulder thrown into a small pond, the M line's closure will cause a major ripple effect across the area that will impact even those who normally do not rely on the train line to get around."

THIRD PLACE

Westchester County Business
Journal, White Plains

Bill Heltzel

I didn't see any link between and among the four stories — except their location. And while they weren't submitted individually, I determined that one of them stood out from the others: Mount Vernon's "Big Stink" The lede worked: "An impending... dirty, stinky, silted, noxious, underused waterfront..." etc., etc.. "Or at least that's the theory."

FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue
Nicholas Esposito

I would almost feel comfortable by just saying one word — outstanding. A key to any feature story is to capture who a person is beyond what they do or why they do it. This does a great job of telling a story that is both interesting and informative. I left this story feeling like I would buy produce here and know exactly what I was getting and the efforts taken to grow it. A really nice job. Kudos.

SECOND PLACE

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
David F. Sherman

As journalists, we are recording history for future generations. This not only records the present for those generations, but it looks back in time for this generation. Putting a face on history makes it more interesting and personal for readers and this hits all the points. Job well done.

THIRD PLACE

GreaterLongIsland.com, Patchogue
Alyssa Vera

Sometimes the best stories are the simplest ones. How they are told is the key. This took a decision by a local business and told not only about that decision, but also how that decision had a positive effect on the community. It was well written and interesting. I hope the readers found it as interesting as I did.

HONORABLE MENTION

Warsaw's Country Courier, Warsaw
Natalie Muster

It's always nice for readers to see "local boy does good" type of stories. People want to know what happened to their friends and neighbors who went on to become famous (or sometimes infamous). This does a nice job of showing how a local person was able to make a name for themselves. Nicely done.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

City & State, New York
Frank G. Runyeon

This is a solid in-depth portrait. The relationship the writer had with the subject merits inclusion and the first person treatment puts the reader in a very interesting space (getting to know both author and subject). Well done.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Peter Stevenson

You had me hooked from the first paragraph. Excellent profile on an interesting guy. Loved the word play throughout and the quotes were well edited and selected.

THIRD PLACE

City & State, New York
Jeff Coltin

Very insightful read. My favorite quote, which seems to tie it all together comes in the heart of the story: "Your early years have a big impact," he says, "because you're stuck there."

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Michael Turton

What a great idea for a story. We all know that one person with crazy stories, why not compile them into a well-written tale? Had me smiling.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Steve Wick and Grant Parpan

Well researched, easy to read story about a missing woman. It includes too much cliches, such as "scores of interviews," which leads one to wonder why the reporters felt the need to pat themselves on the back for their hard work. It would have been nice to put names, dates to all the photos. While the reader can assume it's the missing woman, who is with her; when are those moments in her life? Some are ID'd in the story but don't assume the reader will read all the story. Also, the editorializing is distracting. There is no need to say what the reader feels or thinks, such as "someone studying the photograph today... would be tempted to read a great deal in her eyes." Just say - "on a day should have been joyous... a shadow had fallen over her." All that said, this is a well researched, nicely written story about a woman's unhappy, tragic life; her disappearance and how it affected her loved ones for years to come. It is has, for the most part, quality writing, and style and human interest. It is a well-deserved first place.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Robin K. Cooper

Headline is simple but grabbed my attention. The story is well researched and well written; it's an easy read. Use of graphics is great; it complimented the photos, which help tell the story. The steam off the pasta for chicken alfredo meals makes me glad I don't work in a kitchen! Love the bios of the people changing food service. That helps to make the people real and that is a nice, human, hometown touch. The writing could be tightened, however. For example, instead of "new players coming in will be starting..." just say "new players would start from less attractive locations." Overall, a winner.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern
Edition, Southampton
Cailin Riley

The photo of a newborn attached to tubes and holding someone's finger certainly grabs your attention. The story is well researched, well written, and an easy read. It includes a variety of viewpoints and is definitely contest worthy.

HONORABLE MENTION

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo
Dan Miner

Well done. Interesting. Original. The photos work, especially the one on p. 16 which shows some personality in the men. It doesn't read like a business story, which tends to happen in business publications.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Revue,
Brooklyn

Sarah Matusek

A well-written account that takes the reader back in time to when the newspaper business was all about ink on paper. The reporter also did a good job of taking the reader along on a journey through Jeannette Wallis' background and journalism experiences that aided in her ability to write the "Glass Castle," a best-selling memoir that was crafted into a motion picture.

SECOND PLACE

The Red Hook Star-Revue,
Brooklyn

Emily Klauer

This was a comprehensive look at artist Beriah Wall. It was interesting to travel through his artistic endeavors, and what he has done for his community through his talent. I thought the whole package was well done, with plenty of photos to also tell his artistic story, and how they incorporated the many coins he fashioned within the article.

THIRD PLACE

The Yorktown News, Yorktown
Gabrielle Bilik

The writer did a very good job with this feature about a business icon that was passing — side-by-side with its owner. The writer takes her readers on a journey through the hardware store's history and also captures how times are changing, with businesses moving from customer service and brick and mortar to technology driven. I was impressed with the talent shown in the crafting of this article, she painted a picture with her words.

DIVISION 5

FIRST PLACE

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson
Alex Petroski

Following the election, many wondered, "How did Trump win?" This story answers that on a micro level with an in-depth interview of the man who helped Trump win Suffolk County. I think more papers would have been well served to seek out similar stories.

SECOND PLACE

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald,
Lynbrook

Mike Smollins

An interesting story with an officer involved in the "Son of Sam" case. It would have been easy to do a "40-years later" recap-type story. Finding someone who was a key player in the case was a nice route to take.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Kevin Redding

A perfect pre-Halloween story about the haunted local watering hole. Plenty of examples of what some have seen, heard and felt, which is just what you'd want from a story about a haunted building.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Riverdale Press, Bronx
Julius Constantine Motal

A heavy story about how one local man is trying to help people who live 8,000 miles away. The two breakout boxes help explain who the people are and how readers can help them.

DIVISION 6

FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Ben Rowe

A heart warming story of hope and the place pets can play in human lives.

SECOND PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Katie McFadden

A strong story about people reaching out to those in need — unknown and far away.

THIRD PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Denise A. Raymo

A nice feature with strong art.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton
Bridget Leroy

A fun look at a supreme talent.

Best Sports Action Photo(s), 2017



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
BENJAMIN PATTON
THE WALTON REPORTER

“This was a tough category to judge, there was a lot of really nice work. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong peak action and a cutline that provided good relevant information. The image nicely summed up a tough loss.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
ROBERT O’ROURK
THE NEWS-REVIEW

“Photographer captured a great moment of peak action. This image quickly rose to the top.”



ROBERT O’ROURK PHOTOS



JERMELL CHARLO KNOCKED OUT CHARLES HATLEY IN A NIGHT OF BOXING AT BARCLAYS - PAGE 45

PHOTO: JEFFREY ARMSTRONG

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3
JEFFREY ARMSTRONG
QUEENS LEDGER

“The drama of this moment, and the clear view of Hatley while Charlo celebrates, make this the clear top of the list.”

Excellence Awards

FEATURE STORY

DIVISION 7

FIRST PLACE

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Matt Butler

THAT ONE CORNER, By Matt Butler: Outstanding piece of local journalism. The kind of in-depth, balanced reporting that tells more than just a surface story (who-what-where-when) about an issue, but that literally gets into the gutter to probe the "whys" and "hows" and "what's next?" The lede set the mood and the personalities provided the color. The only criticism I have is for the last sentence: I would have preferred to have read a quote from someone saying essentially the same thing. Other than that, this is the kind of journalism every community needs. Excellent job.

SECOND PLACE

The Photo News, Monroe
Doug Feiden

This was tough: it was my initial first choice. This is the kind of in-depth reporting journalists live for; it proves that local issues can get the same kind of treatment that's usually reserved for state, national and international issues. The writer did a great job getting me interested and then telling me a great story. The sequence of information kept the story straight, his use of quotes was perfect. In fact, the submission abruptly ended with shortly after the \$4,000 check subhead, so I went online to read the rest. THAT's how engaging it was. Kudos.

THIRD PLACE

Long Island Press, Syosset
Jaime Franchi

Now, THIS is thinking outside the box to tell a feature story. To present it as a pitch for a TV show is inspired. I had to go back and re-read parts of it to make sure it wasn't pure fiction. I think I know some of those people (in my own family). Definitely "Miller Time."

BEST NEWS OR FEATURE SERIES

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Antonio Olivero

This was a category filled with outstanding quality community journalism, the bedrock of a local newspaper. This author did everything a journalist is supposed to do when reporting on issues, and made a national story very local, showing readers exactly how government decisions could affect them. Perfect use of breakout boxes, which helped in telling the story. Newspapers around the country likely did the same types of stories, but this author did it as well as could be expected, and the readers were the real winners.

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
What an important piece of journalism. I applaud the staff on capturing an issue that is gripping the country and putting faces to this crisis. These are some of the most important stories that can be done, and some of the most difficult to do. This is quality journalism at its finest and the staff should be proud of how well they did and how they were able to balance telling the story while remaining respectful of the subject. Job well done.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Justin A. Levine

In an area where the natural resources are important and a vital part of the region, this entry gave readers a thorough examination of what the wild forest changes would be and the impact they would have. The visuals and breakout boxes helped to tell the story.

HONORABLE MENTION

Port Washington Times, Williston Park
Noah Manskar

This is an outstanding example of what journalists should do — stick with the story until the end. This was an interesting story to follow and read through and I'm sure readers anticipated the next step in the process as it played out. Great job.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Ben Beagle and Matt Leader

Nice balance between community insights and explanation of tragic accident. Well written with good supporting art and page play. Bravo!

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
James Franco

Author does a nice job explaining complicated legal issues and their ramifications in a way reader can understand.

THIRD PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Matt Leader

Heck of a year at your town's high school. Candid interviews were key to this coverage.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn
Emily Kluwer

Kudos for trying something that could have been a major dud. However, writer's ability to explain the everyday really makes this work.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

East Meadow Herald, East Meadow
Stephany Reyes

Great variety of stories highlighting the Latino experience in your community. Editorial ties all the news pieces together in a call to action that resonates with Hispanic and non-hispanic readers alike. Leading with quotes is awkward and disorienting — don't turn over this key piece of real estate to another.

SECOND PLACE

Port Times-Record, Port Jefferson
Alex Petroski

Comprehensive, sustained coverage of a life-or-death infrastructure issue. Lede with compelling citizens rather than reports from bureaucrats or written statements. Narrative scene-setting ledes can make stories like this more important and compelling. Package cries out for better use of maps and info-graphics.

THIRD PLACE

The Times of Huntington, Huntington
Sara-Megan Walsh

Nice piece could have been even more compelling if reporter had spent time with the dogs and reported on it in a vivid way. Put "How to adopt a sato" info in sidebar or infographic.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Michael Gannon

Good rubber-meets-the-road reporting on an issue of general concern. Kudos for not letting the issue die and for the pugilistic approach.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
John Cropley, Jeff Wilkin and Bill Buell
Wonderfully ambitious series exploring the impacts of GE on the community and the wider world, commendable both for the range of approaches and for top-notch execution.

THIRD PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Nick Olivari

This is a tremendously sad story but well rendered. Good use of material from public records to bring emotion and precision to its telling.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Villager (NYC), New York
Lincoln Anderson

This is a fun story built around a strange episode.

BEST OBITUARIES

FIRST PLACE — TIE

The Villager (NYC), New York
Albert Amateau and Lincoln Anderson

Riveting, powerful, raw, real and messy - these obituaries do justice to the fact that death, like life, is anything but sanitary and neat. Well researched and written - and great choice of photos.

FIRST PLACE — TIE

Gay City News, New York
Andy Humm, Paul Schindler and Donna Aceto

Great variety of people memorialized. Nice selection of photo, quality research, tight prose and writing with authority make for compelling tributes.

SECOND PLACE

Lynbrook East Rockaway Herald, Lynbrook
Mike Smollins

The writer crafts two solid obituaries that artfully blend biographical details, tributes and funeral reporting. Each of the pieces' opening scenes, however, linger a bit too long on the funeral before getting to the nut graf - who was he, when/how/why did he die. Good use of graphic presentation of comments, how to give life to this story.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Laura Huber, Joe Werkmeister and Tim Gannon

Well-crafted obituaries, written with authority and sensitivity, that explain why the loss should matter to the community. Nice blend of tributes, biographical information and anecdotes. Avoid paid-obit jargon like "predeceased." Wonderful portraits for each.

EDITORIALS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

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

Through extensive and thoughtful examinations of deeply important issues, these entries rose to the top. Solid writing is backed up by great organization and a clear sense of why these topics are important. The deep dive into the many facets of campus rape was particularly sharp. These are great editorials.

SECOND PLACE

The Spotlight, Delmar
Michael Hallisey

What these editorials lacked in depth, they more than make up for in impact and deft writing. The issues are local, pertinent, and thoughtfully handled with tenacity.

THIRD PLACE

The Columbia Paper, New Lebanon
Parry Teasdale

Great voice, great writing. Leans heavily on a column-like style, but the issues are just as pressing and timely as the best in this category. While I truly appreciated the dressing down of that anonymous letter, the other editorials shined brighter for their calls to action.

HONORABLE MENTION

Mendon-Honeoye Falls-Lima Sentinel, Honeoye Falls
Christopher Carosa

Perhaps more at home in the column category, these entries still distinguished themselves with their strong voice and writing, their depth of knowledge and their focus on issues of local importance.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Joe Werkmeister, Grant Parpan, Steve Wick and Decia Fates

These entries took lengths to hold elected officials accountable and encourage dialogue in the community. All were very timely.

SECOND PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Virginia Garrison

The author of these editorials showed good writing ability. "Fake News of the Hamptons" was especially witty. It's refreshing to read a more light-hearted editorial from time to time.

THIRD PLACE

Valley Stream Herald, Valley Stream
Nadya Nataly, Scott Brinton, Nick Ciccone and Stephany Reyes

These editorials showed the staff wasn't afraid to tackle serious subjects and, along the way, exhibited good writing ability.

HONORABLE MENTION

Cazenovia Republican, Cazenovia
Jason Emerson

These editorials are concise but seemingly effective. Although they're more reflective in tone vs. a call to action, readers can appreciate the insights offered.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Villager (NYC), New York
Lincoln Anderson

Numerous entries had strong takes and tremendous writing, but what separated this entry from the others was the action taken afterwards. This is a publication that is plugged into its community and is taking active stands on issues that is driving momentum behind that position. These editorials had impact.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Sharon Larsen and Michael Messerly

These editorials come from a board with a clear, independent mind unfazed by reactionary takes or public hysteria. This newspaper's editorial board is the adult in the room, telling a community to calm down and put the events of the day in proper perspective. Smart takes. Solid writing. Good job.

THIRD PLACE

The Valley News, Elizabethtown
This editorial board is taking issues by the short hairs and giving them a sharp slap in the face. Easy to read, excellent points.

HONORABLE MENTION

Queens Chronicle, Queens
Peter C. Mastrosimone

These short, succinct editorials get to the point with strong takes and few wasted words.

BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Bob Seidenstein

While his columns may have lacked the polish of some of the competitors, we felt his writing reached us in a way no one else did. His down-to-earth, sometimes funny, sometimes serious topics and tones made for a great read.

SECOND PLACE

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora
Rick Ohler

These columns were a great read. I loved the humor mixed in with column about free speech, and the emotion that pours out of his column about drug overdoses.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Mike Hendricks

These columns were well written, intelligent, and compelling. He proved he's not afraid to take on the tough topics (opioids). And as a Michigan fan, I loved his column about U-M football.

HONORABLE MENTION

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

One column started with three simple words: "I have cancer." This was a very moving piece that really hit home as we all have someone close to us who has gone through this same journey.

Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1 THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

“The staff of the Highlands Current turned out a series of stories and graphics that perfectly demonstrates what the Thomas G. Butson Award is all about. It’s an exhaustive report about opioids that’s written well and laid out attractively. Excellent job.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2 THE SUFFOLK TIMES

“I was hoping that the #1 choice would jump out and grab me, but it didn’t happen until final entry of the contest was opened — the Suffolk Times story about the disappearance of Louise Pietrewicz. Not only is this the most compelling entry submitted, it also shows the best design work, and design can play a big part in drawing in a reader. The Times staff created an excellent report. It’s a job very well done.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4 LYNBROOK EAST ROCKAWAY HERALD

“This is what being a newspaper is all about. Making staff available to hear issues in a community. Following up on a tip of a scam artist. Nailing the scam artist and spurring criminal action. I’m very excited about awarding this series of reports 1st place for showing the need of a strong free press.”



THOMAS G. BUTSON

This is the first 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 COLUMN

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter,
Shelter Island
Charity Robey

In all the years of judging newspaper contests, I have never had such a difficult time choosing winners. There are so many excellent entries. New York is blessed with great columnists. This writer gets the top nod. I really like her stuff and it would be enjoyable to meet her. I like the way she sees things — and puts it into print.

SECOND PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence
Randi Kreis

These columns are really compelling. They're well written, like so many entries, and a lot of fun to read. The writer brings a lot of thoughts together to tell a good story.

THIRD PLACE

The East Hampton Press,
East Hampton
Kelly Ann Smith

The writer offers a broad range of topics and really puts her thoughts down well. Once again, excellent writing. Every one of these winners are such good story-tellers.

HONORABLE MENTION

Merrick Herald Life, Merrick
Scott Brinton

BEST COLUMN

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Villager (NYC), New York
Michele Herman

Firmly rooted in local interest, the columns displayed the sense that the writer was willing to dive into the community, talk with anyone and everyone and distill into something with meaning — delightfully local, thoughtful collecting of expertise. I truly wanted to keep reading. Great writing, great voice with high-impact.

SECOND PLACE

The Villager (NYC), New York
Carl Rosenstein

Another strong, distinctive voice, aimed at having a local impact. I may have disagreed with some of his opinions, but good writing and well-thought-out theses kept me reading.

THIRD PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Kelly Cogswell

A near-tie for second, some of the most heart-felt, biting and inspired writing in the entire category. Deeply personal, great writing.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ithaca Times, Ithaca
Charley Githler

Caught me off guard with the willingness to switch up the format in each entry; I liked that originality and I'd wager the readers do too. The sarcasm is strong with this one.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and
Albany County Post, Altamont
Carol Coogan

Powerful illustration really draws readers into the accompanying opinion.

SECOND PLACE

East Aurora Advertiser, East Aurora
Jon Penfold

Timely take on a universal issue.

THIRD PLACE

The Highlands Current,
Philipstown
Clay Jones

Creative way of describing a serious topic.

HONORABLE MENTION

Williston Times, Williston Park
Matt Bodkin

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea
Max Burbank

Although I did not see much resemblance in the drawings to the real people, I felt that the use of Donald Trump and Richard Nixon as Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley was very appropriate for this point in time.

SECOND PLACE

The Brooklyn Paper, Brooklyn
Sylvan Migdal

I like the use of light-hearted humor contrasting the shining towers with the unknowns of a murky river.

THIRD PLACE

The Villager (NYC), New York
Ira Blutreich

Amusing use of hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil and Trump's ability to let things roll off his back.

BEST USE OF VIDEO

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
*Grant Parpan, Krysten Massa
and Steve Wick*

Incredibly compelling work. Strong impact from the video content in this series. Excellent journalism on display. Well done!

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Mike DeSocio

The video did a remarkable job of bringing me, an outsider, into the issue of parking in Troy. Very creative work with a strong impact. Solid work all around on this piece.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Creative and effective piece that truly delivered the intended message very well. Excellent camera work and editing on display.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Krysten Massa

Really excellent video that told a great story.

BEST ONLINE STATIC AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Greg Minix

This ad instantly made me feel nostalgic about the holiday. Very nicely done and seasonally-appropriate. Visually impressive. An excellent piece of work!

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Clever wordplay and creative use of the whale's tale too. I liked this ad quite a bit!

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

A very well constructed ad that really drives home the point of the event.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Nice design. Great image. Very effective ad.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Patricia Moss

Very nice layout. Terrific image. A really great ad overall.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Mail, Catskill
Steve LaRowe

Clever use of image. Simple and effective.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Todd Soules

Image, text, and design work together very well in this ad.

BEST ONLINE DYNAMIC

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Charlie Tumino

Creative use of design to deliver a quality ad.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Maria Gennaro

Timely, simple, and effective. Well done.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Michael Versandi

Eye-catching and pleasant. Nice work.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva
Roxanne Ferris

The image immediately catches your eye - pun intended! Nicely structured ad. Very effective.

SECOND PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva
Roxanne Ferris

The images used were great choices and did a nice job of tying the ads together.

THIRD PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva
Roxanne Ferris

The family photo was great. Nice ad.

BEST CONQUESTED TARGET E-MAIL

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

The two pieces of art tie together nicely. The man in the bottom photo leaning on the lady, looking exhausted at the airport. Almost as if he's dreaming about the plane above.

SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Michelina Da Fonte

I like the way they set this up so they could obtain data from others interested, and could follow up with. Great strategy.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Michelina Da Fonte

Nice and clean ad. The 10% offer jumps off the ad at the reader. Good they are engaging the reader to obtain email address for follow-up.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Nice art of a party, but I think the pest control aspect of the ad gets lost. The copy about natural materials is totally over ridden by the rest of the ad.

BEST WEBSITE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Good looking news site. Very responsive. I like how it was easy to sign up for email blasts as well as participate in the Poll of the day.

SECOND PLACE

Westchester County Business
Journal, White Plains
Dan Viteri

I like the way this site introduced the various products when you entered the homepage. Very easy to navigate and easy to read.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton

Good photos. Easy to navigate.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Mail, Catskill

Easy to navigate without a lot of scrolling. Easy to read and wasn't trying to overwhelm me.

FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Ben Beagle

Love the juxtaposition between the little boy with his toy plane and the real plane in the background, but his facial expression really makes the image. The photographer did a great job getting down to the child's level to compose the image.

SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller

The photographer did a nice job of getting above the scene for a different point of view from the type of event we've seen dozens of times. Even the lines from the parking spots and the patched cracks help make the composition, and the flag adds a nice pop of color and depth.

THIRD PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean

A well-composed image of a simple, fun moment. A nice catch by the photographer.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean

A nice collection of scenes from the fair — the variety of candid moments moved this up past a lot of other entries.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Freeport Herald Leader, Freeport
Christina Daly

This photo puts the reader a spot few see, and captures a perfect moment where the inverted plane is passed by another plane complete with exhaust, with the bridge perfectly placed in the frame. It couldn't be better.

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition,
Southampton
Dana Shaw

The sense of awe and discovery on the child, so well lit and framed by the Native American clothing, make this a standout. The photo is very well cropped.

THIRD PLACE

The Village Beacon-Record, Miller Place
Kevin Redding

There was tight competition for third place, but the emotion on the faces of the people in this photo put it a step above the rest.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition,
Southampton
Dana Shaw

As stated earlier, there was tough competition for third place, but this shot earned honorable mention for its quirky shift of scale and low angle.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Rocco Laurienzo

The decision to silhouette the ballerinas against the vibrant purple backlighting was a genius one. It's eye catching color and contrast of the dancers demands readers attention while also showing the beauty of dance, and photography, as art. Also, it brings awareness to the subjects themselves and draws the reader into the story about dance therapy.

SECOND PLACE

Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Bill DeLapp and Michael Davis

The unique angles and perspectives used by the photographer give this series of images a sense of fun, and a view into what most of us will never experience.

THIRD PLACE

Norwood News, Bronx
Adi Talwar

Whenever an image elicits an emotional response from its viewer, you know the photographer has done his job. The colors, the smile on the little girls face, the framing and focus makes one think of the magic Christmas holds for children.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Freeman's Journal, Cooperstown
Ian Austin

This image makes one smile. The expressions of the graduates as the rain pours down is priceless and this image is one they, and their families, will treasure.

Sharon R. Fulmer Award for Community Leadership, 2017

FIRST PLACE — THE ALTAMONT ENTERPRISE AND ALBANY COUNTY POST

The *Altamont Enterprise* has an admirable record of powerful, persuasive community leadership. The newspaper has won 9 awards in this category, and this is the third time the paper has been awarded first place.

“The power — and the importance — of community journalism rang true in this entry. Getting a result that will save lives is a wonderful accomplishment for a newspaper.”

When 17-year-old Alyssa Gelfund died this spring after a crash on Hurst Road, editor Saranac Hale Spencer was immediately reminded of two teen deaths the *Altamont Enterprise* had covered on the same stretch of rural road 17 years before. Reporter Elizabeth Floyd Mair pursued this angle, talking to residents on the road and others who shared stories from even earlier generations being attracted to the road for the thrill of “getting air” by speeding over its undulating surface.

The front-page story that week, detailing the crash, included pictures of the memorial that still stood from the long-ago crash, as well as photographs showing the community’s outpouring of grief over the recent death.

An editorial the next week, by Melissa Hale-Spencer, urged that something useful be done with that grief. The editorial took pains to explain the functioning of an adolescent brain and its tendency for risk-taking,

poignantly illustrated by Carol Coogan. But the editorial went on to offer a practical solution — level the road.

While the town supervisor said, “It’s a properly designed road for the posted speed. You could make the argument that no town roads are made for going 90 miles per hour or more,” *The Enterprise* got the highway superintendent on the record, saying he would level the road. We wrote we believed he was a man of his word and we would hold him to it.

We did and he was. Floyd Mair reported in October that the road was leveled, being regraded to a gentle slope. Dmitry Gelfand, the father of Alyssa Gelfund, who had been killed in the spring, told Floyd Mair, “It’s a wonderful, wonderful thing that the town is doing. Any effort that the town makes with regard to this situation and this road that may potentially save one life would be monumental.”



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

SPORTS ACTION PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Walton Reporter, Walton
Benjamin Patton

This was a tough category to judge, there was a lot of really nice work. This image found its way to the top through a combination of technical quality, strong peak action and a cutline that provided good relevant information. The image nicely summed up a tough loss.

SECOND PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean

First and second place were very, very close. This is a really nice image from a game that sees a lot of these types of plays.

THIRD PLACE

The Walton Reporter, Walton
Benjamin Patton

Good peak action image with a nice reaction by the coach in the background. The base runner looks safe to me, but I'm just a humble photo judge.

HONORABLE MENTION

Cortland Standard, Cortland
Joe McIntyre

Something a little different from a soccer game. The players in the foreground add nice depth to the usual soccer images.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Robert O'Rourke

Photographer captured a great moment of peak action. This image quickly rose to the top.

SECOND PLACE

Star Review, Liverpool
Scott Thomas

A nice tight crop really helped make this image of a swarm of defenders tackling the player. Kudos for identifying all the players making the play.

THIRD PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Daniel De Mato

Photographer did a good job capturing a diving goal, along with a caption explaining why he was the game's standout player.

HONORABLE MENTION

The News-Review, Riverhead
Robert O'Rourke

Nice image using a different composition to show just how dominant this runner is without the standard finish line shot.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Queens Ledger, Queens
Jeffrey Armstrong

The drama of this moment, and the clear view of Hatley while Charlo celebrates, make this the clear top of the list.

SECOND PLACE

The Independent, East Hampton
Gordon M. Grant

Being in the right place at a key moment with McIntyre's first quarter TD, while showing the player's cast to illustrate his challenge with the injury earned this entry second place.

THIRD PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Kayla Breen

Really tight competition in the Sports Action category made choosing third place difficult, but the peak of action in catching the play at first in mid-air, with ball in glove, but foot on the bag, make this a standout.

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times,
Watertown
Christopher Lenney

The planning and visualization required to get this shot made it deserving of honorable mention.

SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO(S)

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise,
Hastings-on-Hudson
Jim MacLean

This image shows great emotion, photographer did a nice job of getting in front of the action. nice job.

SECOND PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and
Albany County Post, Altamont
Michael Koff

Great emotion, great moment, great image. This image tells the whole story.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Western
Edition, Westhampton Beach
Drew Budd

The connection between this rider and her horse is undeniable, great job of knowing when to release the shutter, perfect moment.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Robert O'Rourke

Great moment between these two players. nice image tells the story of the game.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Long Beach Herald, Long Beach
Brian Ballweg

Great emotion, the team reaction is priceless, great image.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Christian K. Lee

This image has it all, emotion, passion and team, The image made me feel like I was on the bench in the locker room with the team.

THIRD PLACE

Sea Cliff Glen Head Herald
Gazette, Glen Cove
John Heckman

Great image, great emotion the perfect moment caught on film. Nice job

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Justin Sorensen

This image says it all about the last game of the season, win or lose it is about the commitment of the team. Nice image.

ART PHOTO

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,
Saranac Lake
Lou Reuter

What an amazing capture! To get this moment, with such amazing sharpness and beautiful composition, is no small feat and no doubt took patience and skill.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Jeremy Garretson

The vibrant colors and crispness of this image, along with the beautiful composition, draw the reader into the photo and show the skill of the photographer.

THIRD PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise,
Saranac Lake
Antonio Olivero

This image is inviting and calming, just by looking at it, one can hear the rush of the water and feel the sun on her skin. The rainbow makes this image with that little bit of happy color bringing a smile to the readers.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Jim MacLean

The angle and leading lines of this image creates a unique perspective to what could have been a mundane image of a bridge.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Christian K. Lee

The unique perspective and angle of this image made it stand out from many qualified entries. This composition and exposure brings what could be an average image and elevates it to an outstanding one.

SECOND PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Kayla Breen

Every time the reader looks at this image, she find something new to look at; from the smiling faces of the children, to the colorful balloons, and successful wide depth of field, this image screams "FUN!"

THIRD PLACE

East Meadow Herald, East Meadow
Christina Daly

The composition of this image, along with the colors of the sunset, make it one that stands out to readers and catches their eyes, drawing them in making them want to see more. Beautiful work.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton
Ed Gifford

The colors in this image contrasted to the silhouette of the tree are stunning and the pop of the sunlight adds that little bit of something extra to a well composed image.

PICTURE STORY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Lori Hawkins

I feel like I'm in the diner. Well done.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Donna Abbott-Vlahos

Gorgeous images. Nice selection.

THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller

Strong images. Nicely laid out.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Donna Crinnian

Elegant way to showcase nature of our feathered friends.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
*Jeremy Garretson, Elizabeth Wagner
and Bill Landon*

The fireworks photo is lovely.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Krysten Massa

Nice clean layout depicts the story well.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Smithtown News, Smithtown
Joseph Sperber

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Amanda Morrison

Beautiful. Heartwarming.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Daytona Niles

Great idea. Nice fist-bump photo, great check-on-homeless image and nice variety.

SECOND PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea
Christian Miles

Nice variety and great topic.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Amanda Morrison

Nicely done. Great topic and beautifully executed photos.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton
Justin Meinken

SPOT NEWS PHOTOS

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Michael Heller

Rae. Interesting.

SECOND PLACE

Putnam County Courier, Carmel
Eric Gross

Wow. You don't often get to see this.

THIRD PLACE

The Rivertowns Enterprise,
Hastings-on-Hudson
Jim MacLean

Captured a great historical moment. Love the thumbs up.

HONORABLE MENTION

Putnam County News & Recorder,
Cold Spring
Douglas Cunningham

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway Park
Ron McGrisken

Lovely image.

SECOND PLACE

The News-Review, Riverhead
Kelly Zegers

Nailed it.

THIRD PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence
Susan Grieco

Great moment.

HONORABLE MENTION

Rockville Centre Herald,
Rockville Centre
*Rossana Weitekamp, Scott Brinton
and Christina Daly*

Nice moment. Nice composition.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Mark Gutman

I think the photographer went beyond the assignment of shooting a graduation and looked for a different way to tell the story. Very nice image and it says a lot about the generation of today. A fun image, great job by this photographer being ready when the moment hit.

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Justin Sorensen

Photographer in the right place at the right time. captured the moment well I can not imagine there is an editor who wouldn't want to run this image in their publication. Nice job.

THIRD PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Mark Gutman

This image tell the whole story, the detail in the burned walls was perfect, the image of the firefighter looking out was great, told the story.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Independent, East Hampton
Ed Gifford

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walser

Great use of photos and graphs with the story. Eye catching. Nice job.

SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Chris Lester, Gavin Menu

Love the top graphic. Really grabs the readers attention and the point of the article. Nice job!

THIRD PLACE

City & State, New York
Kewen Chen

Pretty busy to read but get's the point across.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Paul Squire

Good job at including graphs and photos to the article to get the message across.

Richard L. Stein Award for Overall Design Excellence, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1 ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

Congratulations to Melissa Mangini and Kristina Walser — the judges said: “This paper has a very modern overall design. It has great graphics and photography throughout. It keeps you interested and wanting to read more. I really liked the 40 under 40 special section.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2 THE RIVERDALE PRESS

How appropriate that the award named for the former publisher of this newspaper should take home this award. Hats off to Michael Hinman, Richard Stein, Mekea Fishlin. The judges said, “This paper has a very modern masthead that leads you into a well laid out paper. The paper has good typography throughout and I especially enjoyed the design and concept of the Mom and Pop Stores.”



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

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Plainview-Old Bethpage Herald, Plainview

Cathy Bongiorno

Yum — Made me hungry right away. Very clean layout and really nice feature story. Really nice job!

SECOND PLACE

Roslyn News, Roslyn

Cathy Bongiorno

Nice and clean. Great job at showing a history timeline.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Chronicle, Queens

Jan Schulman

Clever, funny graphic.

HONORABLE MENTION

Syracuse New Times, Syracuse

Michael Davis and Greg Minix

Great use of color with the illustration. Nice job.

BEST SPECIAL SECTION COVER

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park

Yvonne Farley

Spot on with what the edition is about! Great job, very nice.

SECOND PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring

Chris Layton and Doug Cunningham

The picture of the sun set is beautiful. The colors alone draw my eye to the Guide. Having water and people in summer attire was the perfect fit.

THIRD PLACE

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo

Jim Courtney and Nancy Knight.

Very Cute Front.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

Cute, could have added some color.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence

Jeff Negrin

Cover really catches the meaning of the whole edition. Great job!

SECOND PLACE

Olean Times Herald, Olean

Matt Keim

Very patriotic front cover.

THIRD PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway

Kevin Boyle

Very heart wrenching. Really shows what people went through. Very emotional.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily News, Batavia

Michelle Dries

Very thoughtful and pictures were well placed to not look too busy.

SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS - NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale

Scarsdale takes a traditional "Back to School" section and brings new life to the content. The layout is great, however some photos were dark in black and white. It would have been nice to see this printed in full color throughout. Nice mix of advertising and content.

SECOND PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park

An amazing magazine-style layout.

Very reader-friendly. Nice variety of topics.

THIRD PLACE

The Altamont Enterprise and Albany County Post, Altamont

Nice mix of content for a graduation edition. Nice layout. Some pages look really gray and need broken up with more photos or sidebars.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Southampton Press-

Eastern Edition, Southampton

Really strong section. Great photos and content to ad ratio is good. Interesting content readers will want to read.

SECOND PLACE

Nassau Herald, Lawrence

Scott Brinton, Tyler Marko and Jeff Negrin

Great way to honor local fire departments.

The photos of the fireteams by town illustrates a strong sense of community.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-

Eastern Edition, Southampton

Spectacular use of photography and stories to create a year of remembrance.

SPECIAL SECTIONS/NICHE PUBLICATIONS - NEWSPRINT

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Chelsea Now, Chelsea

Sean Egan, Corey Johnson,

Sue Malesevic, Eileen Stukane and Scott Stiffler

Strong content and photos. These photos tell the story. Beginning, middle and end were well thought out.

SECOND PLACE

The Jewish Week, New York

Sandee Bravarksy, Diane Cole,

Steve Lipman, Andrew Silow-Carroll

Beautiful display of book reviews. Clean, crisp front cover and section layout. Subtle use of color.

THIRD PLACE

Warwick Advertiser, Warwick

Pam Chergotis, Erika Norton,

Joe Piccard, Bob Quinn,

Linda Smith-Hancharick, Mike Zummo

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Well-organized, excellent use of large anchor photos and strong headlines with each feature. All content is local. "100 Things" feature is a notable touch. Strongly structured package with relevant information, highly readable.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

Solid design and exploration of its theme. Nothing "dazzles," but it's an effective section.

THIRD PLACE

Olean Times Herald, Olean

Rich Place, Jim Eckstrom and Matt Keim

Useful guide to area parks. At first glance, flip-over format seems awkward, but actually is a clever way to target specific readership, within a single section.

BEST SECTIONS / NICHE PUBLICATIONS — GLOSSY

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs

Chris Bushee and Kacie Cotter-Sacala

Clearly the standout entry in this category. This magazine is beautiful and the content structure genius. Amazing photography, readable content and eye-catching advertising.

SECOND PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

Strong photography paired with clean layout and powerful headlines. Nice touch adding recipes.

THIRD PLACE

Port Washington News,

Port Washington

Great execution of photos, articles and paper stock makes this publication stand out.

HONORABLE MENTION

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo

Scott Thomas, Nancy Knight

and Jim Courtney

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown

Holly Boname

Excellent print job. Features and photos work good with white space. Large attractive pictures.

SECOND PLACE

The Evening Tribune, Hornell

Gracie Dreher

Very informative and well-designed travel magazine.

THIRD PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

Mary E. Thorpe & Rachael Sergent

Strong imaginary. Shows great community spirit.

BEST PUBLIC SERVICE OR NON-PROFIT SPECIAL SECTION

DIVISION 1

Business First of Buffalo, Buffalo

Tracey Drury, Nancy Knight

and Jim Courtney

This publication was the perfect blend of informative and useful to arm the readership with information that helps them understand how the local world of nonprofits operates. A smart way to present data and a beautiful design to boot.

DIVISION 2

The River Reporter, Narrowsburg

Laurie Stuart, Barbara Winfield

and Amanda Reed

A real, comprehensive look at the crisis gripping the country. The publication utilizes a variety of sources to tackle all the issues an average reader would have regarding a very large public health crisis. Great job with breakouts to make it digestible to the reader.

DIVISION 3

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva

A great way to connect with readers. Profiles of volunteers helps ensure a broad appeal to all walks of life and it's presented in a short, digestible way.

DIVISION 4

The Daily News, Batavia

John Anderson

Great layout and a smart combination of contributed, local and wire content.

MAGAZINE

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck

Vera Chinese, Grant Parpan

and Eric Hod

What we liked most about this 108-page, self-cover, perfect-bound magazine — besides its beautiful layout and photography and quality content and writing — was that it was local, local, local from beginning to end. Even though the September 2017 was only the FOURTH edition of this amazing magazine, it is very well done and will find a space on many Northforkers' coffee tables. The advertising, of which there was abundance enough to warm any publisher's heart, was all classy and nicely done... not a starburst to be found. Good work!

SECOND PLACE

The Southampton Press-

Western Edition, Westhampton Beach

We found the October 2017 "inaugural" Autumn edition of this magazine intriguing and well done. For its 108 pages (104 + 4) it chose non-glossy paper that works well with its more sober "Food & Farm" content. We like that all of its content is local... even the cover photo. Often, it is tempting to purchase stock art for covers, but we love that the cover photo went with a local story inside and it was very well framed. The farming, back to earth, theme is carried throughout. The advertising for the most part is well done. Some ads could have been "kicked up a notch" to meet quality magazine standards. The publisher writes that the magazine was conceived as an adjunct to its award-winning website of the same name. We are pleased to see websites going to print rather than vice versa!

Though small in size (52 pages), we found the November 2017 "Philanthropy Edition" of this magazine nicely done and true to its theme. The cover photo is good quality and went with the cover story inside, and the content is local, about women and philanthropy. The layout makes good use of a color bleed without overdoing it. The photography is sharp, the writing straightforward yet compelling and personal. The advertising is magazine quality except for the occasional coupons. Overall, it was a very well done.

THIRD PLACE

Eagle Bulletin, Fayetteville

Lorna Oppedisano

Real estate magazines vary in quality and substance, but we found this magazine fun to look at... and read. That's right. Sprinkled in with the real estate listings and photos, all well done and colorful, were bits of editorial that added interest to the publication. We liked the Camp Gordon cover photo and feature, as well as the stories on log cabin restoration and, especially, the history of an historical listing. They added some fun and variety to the real estate listing publication.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lake Placid News, Lake Placid

Lindsay Munn

Real estate magazines vary in quality and substance, but we found this magazine fun to look at... and read. That's right. Sprinkled in with the real estate listings and photos, all well done and colorful, were bits of editorial that added interest to the publication. We liked the Camp Gordon cover photo and feature, as well as the stories on log cabin restoration and, especially, the history of an historical listing. They added some fun and variety to the real estate listing publication.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs

Chris Bushee and Samantha Nock

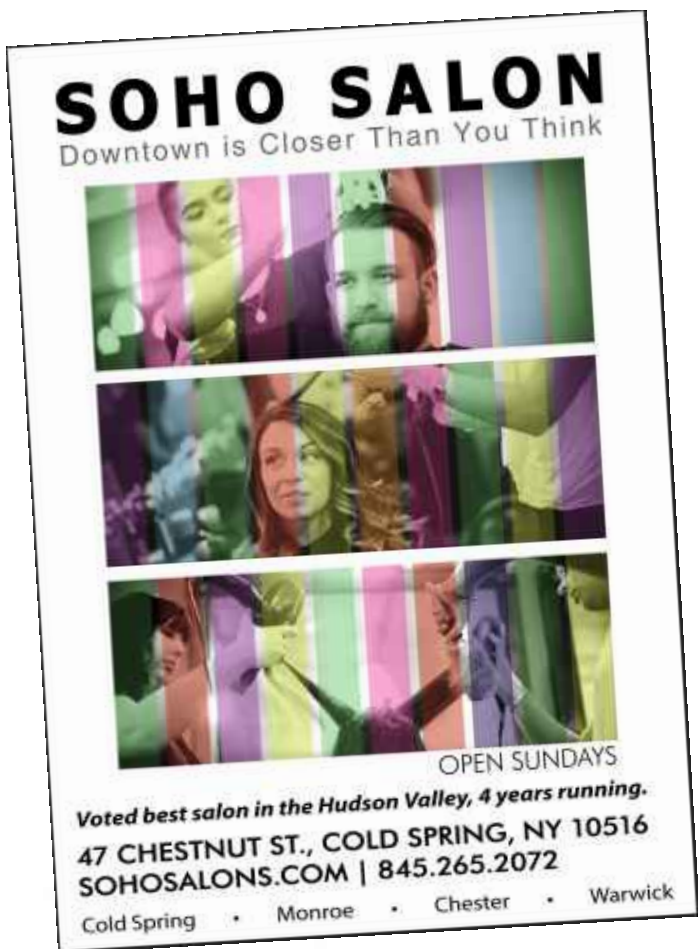
At 196 pages (including cover), the July/August 2017 "touristy" issue of this magazine is truly hefty. The managing editor and 14 contributors (all pictured with bios) did a great job covering Saratoga's "big three" — the track, polo grounds and performing arts center — as well Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Springs, downtown, style, society, architecture and even history. Another interesting item is Bushee's "bucket list" at the end of her column of things to do in and around Saratoga. The magazine is almost too much to take in a one sitting, but it is worth the effort. We would, however, recommend a contents page to guide readers or help them find what they are looking — or where they left off! This issue of Simply Saratoga is a good "touristy" magazine that the "residents enjoy as much as the tourists!"

SECOND PLACE

Queens Courier, Queens

How does one woman cover neighborhoods of Long Island City, Astoria and Sunnyside in Queens? This editor shows us how. As the only editorial employee, with the help of contributors and nonprofit submissions, this editor covers everything from locals doing incredible things, new businesses, apartments, affordable living, The Socrates Annual, "Neighborhood Sweets," puppies and restaurant cuisine. The cover-story covers are, of course, local, and the page layouts, while rather busy, are packed with local photos and content. All in all, a daunting task for a small staff on a monthly basis, but the end results are good.

Best Large Space Ad, 2017



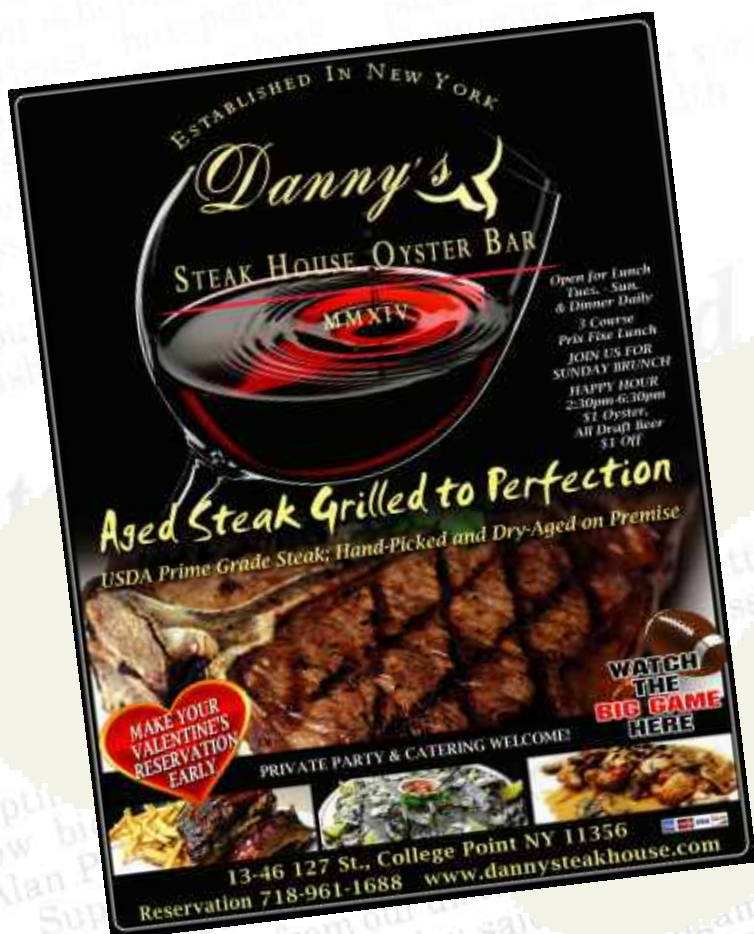
FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
CHRIS LAYTON
PUTNAM COUNTY NEWS & RECORDER

“Very clean and sophisticated.
Definitely creates an image.”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
ERIC HOD, THE SUFFOLK TIMES

“I ranked this ad as first place because it caught my eye right away. Not only is it pleasant to look at but it is also very informative. All of the main facts and information are bold and stand out very well. If you don’t want to read all of the information then you do not have to because the few bold words and pictures allow you to connect the dots and understand what is being portrayed without reading all of the fine print.”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 3
LORRAINE MILANO
QUEENS TRIBUNE

“Very nice layout and use of space and color.
Very eye catching.”



FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 4
MARY E. THORPE
FINGER LAKES TIMES

“Great use of art.
Colorful with lots going on.”

Excellence Awards

MAGAZINE

DIVISION 2

THIRD PLACE

Queens Ledger, Queens
This publication serves as a B to B niche publication featuring news from the Queens Chamber of Commerce. We were impressed with amount of business news, advice, columns and Chamber events featured on a monthly basis. It is a good example of Chamber/print media collaboration.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
The 80-page, self-cover December 2017 magazine is an attractive business publication. Good photography, stories, a great NNY Econ Snapshot and Transactions spread and professionally designed advertising, we assume, are typical of the monthly publication. But what really makes the December 2017 issue stand out is its "20 Under 40" section, which debuted in 2011. This seventh annual issue devoted two pages to each of its 20 "Northern New York's Emerging Leaders." Along with lengthy, well-written profiles and stats, the two-page spreads included two photos of each of the subjects. But the way their graphics team did the layout was perfect. Each spread features a full-length color photograph of the subject on one page and a black-and-white head-and-shoulders shot on the facing page. The contrast works perfectly and avoids the blasé of "it's just another photo of the same person." Good job!

SECOND PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
Who would have thought a monthly-seasonal lifestyle magazine could be devoted to "The Art of Plating," but that is exactly what NNY Living did with its Autumn 2017 issue. The staff interviewed local chefs and restaurateurs for their secrets of plating dishes... from herb garden to table. The subject is fascinating and the excellent photography is a given. Well designed and written, the Autumn issue also delves into art, history, brewing and, yes, more food recipes. All the advertising is magazine quality and, thus, does not detract from the fine editorial content.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Holly Boname
The claim to fame in this edition is its cover feature on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Who can resist photos of freighters and locks and the economic stimulation they provide. The same issue also has a local story on the 50-year history of the Antique Boat Museum, a good companion piece to the cover feature. The layout, photography and advertising are first-rate.

HONORABLE MENTION

Register-Star, Hudson
Jackie Reese
This magazine is so packed with business news and announcements and three feature stories that it seems impossible it fit in 32 pages. The features ranged from teaching trade skills, to appreciation of local industry and shipping to sustainable farming. The layout is good with a cover story photo. Photography and content are local, right down to the expected ribbon cutting. A good, local business publication.

BEST REAL ESTATE / HOME SECTION

FIRST PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Gorgeous in its presentation, from choice of editorial content, ad design and layout, it offers such a variety of topics that the reader has no choice but to engage. The perfect pairing of words and visuals to make the content leap off the page.

SECOND PLACE

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady
This was so stylistically smart in the use of large, crisp photography paired with clean layout, smart typography and a healthy use of white space. You truly feel as if you're taking a tour of these homes and neighborhoods and meeting the interesting people who reside in them.

THIRD PLACE

The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton
A comprehensive look at real estate industry news and how it affects area residents. The large photos, data and charts help the reader relate to and understand the market in a way that wouldn't otherwise be accessible. Great job.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor

BEST AUTOMOTIVE SPECIAL SECTION OR MAGAZINE

FIRST PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Tiffany Towner
This was excellent in choosing content that was the most relatable and usable by the intended reader.

SECOND PLACE

Long Island Weekly
Alex Nunez
Sharp and smart in its content selection. Great layout and reproduction.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
A little type-heavy in the presentation however, the originality of the content and continuity of typography.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

FIRST PLACE

The East Hampton Press, East Hampton
Just beautiful in its presentation. Such a smart variety of content paired with publication design that it feels informative, fun and playful. Great job!

SECOND PLACE

Gay City News, New York
Paul Schindler and Michael Shirey
A great, comprehensive look at Pride and every conceivable issue pertaining to it is included in this publication. Great job presenting everything the reader could conceivably want.

THIRD PLACE

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
A beautifully designed publication with stylish content. Great use of photography and typography.

BEST SPECIAL SECTION - ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE

The Scarsdale Inquirer, Scarsdale
Kathy Potter
Although not necessarily a new idea, this local business profile special section was presented in a fresh and eye-catching manner. The front cover was a home run and invited the reader to turn the page. The layout inside was clean, organized and easy to read and the format of a photo with editorial for each profile was well-balanced. From the number of participants, it was apparent the section was well received by the business community and was definitely an interesting read throughout.

SECOND PLACE

Saratoga Today, Saratoga Springs
Chris Bushee and Samantha Nock
The all-encompassing community guide for the Saratoga Region was an ambitious undertaking. The 148 pages of information covering everything from A-Z were very well organized and avoided the pitfalls of being overwhelming. Beautiful photos helped to balance the editorial and the print quality of the publication was top notch. The annual guide appears to be a very useful tool for residents and visitors

THIRD PLACE

Sullivan County Democrat, Callicoon
A unique and clever section targeting the "non-traditional readers of newspapers" millennials! We appreciated the outside-the-box approach of focusing on 12 "up and coming" young professionals in the community as well as the positive feedback the section received in both print and online. The print quality and layout of the section were also very good but it was the fresh concept that we really liked.

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake
Carol Swirsky
Very creative jewelry campaign, even in black and white.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Eric Hod and Charlie Tumino
Beautiful photos and a clean layout. The are very professional looking.

THIRD PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring
Chris Layton
Ads are clean and sophisticated. Definitely creates the image they were going for.

HONORABLE MENTION

Skaneateles Press, Skaneateles
Sean Haney
The ads are festive and clean. Not your typical liquor store ad.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Long Island Weekly
Caren Donatelli
I ranked this ad as first place because it caught my eye right away. Not only is it pleasant to look at but it is also very informative. The bright colors and pictures are what drew me in. Once you start reading the ad then it gives you all of the basic information you need to decide if you'd like to go somewhere without being too wordy. It has all the necessary visual appeal and wording without being too much.

SECOND PLACE

Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Greg Minix
I ranked this group of ads as second place because the ads are informational and apply to peoples' lives. The ad starts by catching your attention with a witty one liner, then there is a picture that may be relevant to some people but not to others and there's also a fact.

THIRD PLACE

North Country This Week, Potsdam
Cathy Whalen
I ranked this group of ads as third place because I like the layout of it all. The background picture is very creative and I like how it was able to be put behind the cars without being distracting or in the way. Also, the car advertising is very to the point and it gives all the necessary information when people are looking at cars. The only thing that the ads should also have is prices.

BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder, Cold Spring
Chris Layton
Very clean and sophisticated. Definitely creates an image.

SECOND PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walser
Great use of sponsored content.

THIRD PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walser
Colorful and informative. Nice use of photos.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Beautiful ad done in black and white.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Eric Hod
I ranked this ad as first place because it caught my eye right away. Not only is it pleasant to look at but it is also very informative. All of the main facts and information are bold and stand out very well. If you don't want to read all of the information then you do not have to because the few bold words and pictures allow you to connect the dots and understand what is being portrayed without reading all of the fine print.

SECOND PLACE

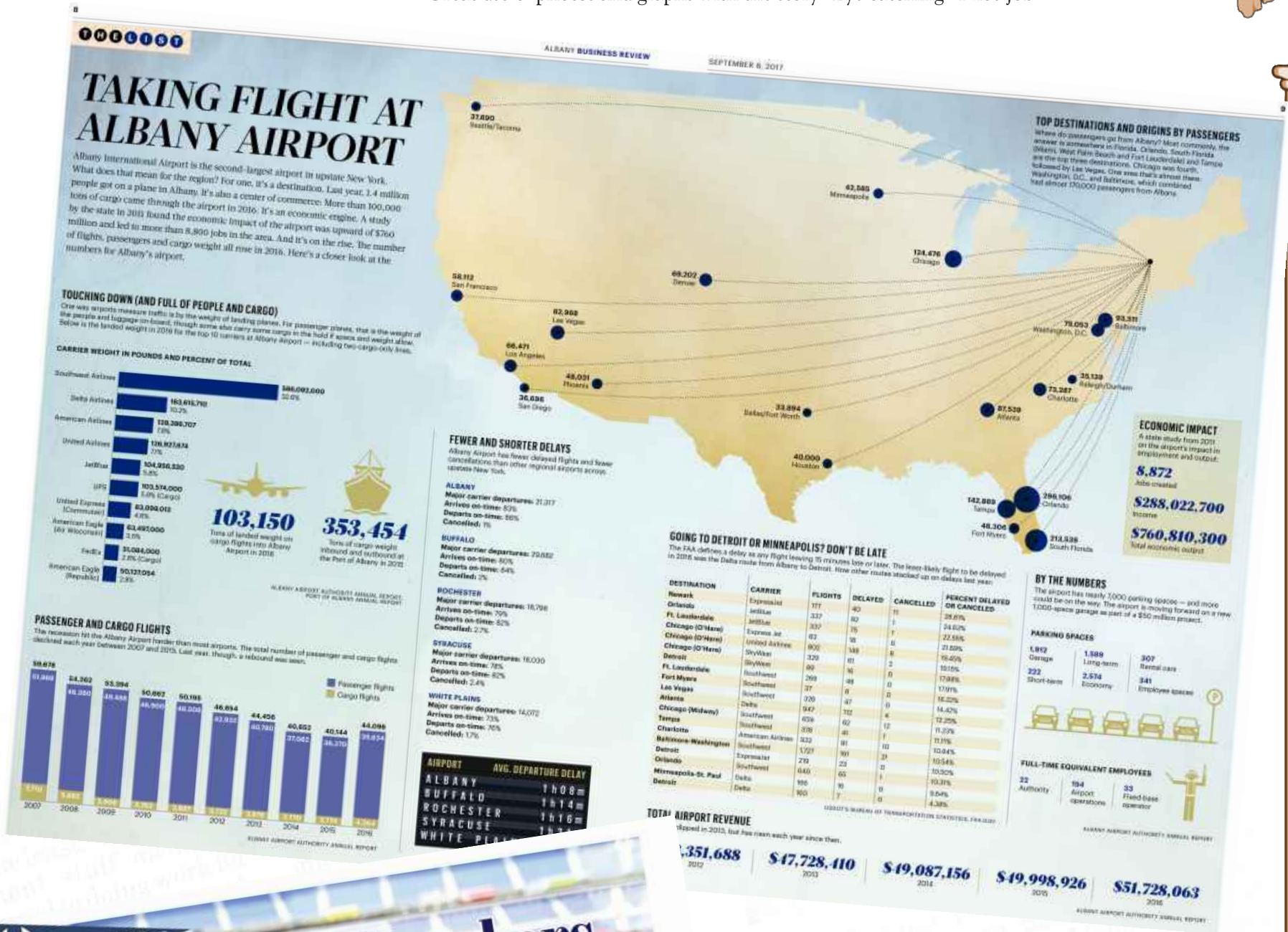
The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Sharon Nicholson
I ranked this ad in second place because it is very clear who the targeted audience is. This saves people time if they are not a homeowner then they can skip over the ad and disregard it because it doesn't affect them. It is also nice for homeowners because it grabs their attention. Once the ad has their attention, all of the information is very to the point. The information is just the basics but then if someone is interested in that then they can contact the business for more. The overall layout is also appealing to look at.

THIRD PLACE

The Garden City News, Garden City
I ranked this ad in third place because everything comes together very well. The picture used really catches your eye as well. It is sparkly and appealing if you are looking to go to a party. In addition to that, the picture isn't in the way at all and the use of spacing was very well thought out. The ad also has all of the important information that will draw people in without being too wordy.

Graphic Illustration, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
 KRISTINA WALSER, ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW
 "Great use of photos and graphs with the story. Eye catching. Nice job."



Bronx Belly Bombers

BY STEVE MOSCO

Now, onto the food.

Section 132 brings Mighty Quinn's BBQ to the masses with slow-smoked meats and truly authentic barbecue. Must try items include the Brisket Sandwich, a tender offering that will make your eyes roll to the back of your head. The brisket is lovingly smoked for 20 hours and served on a soft bun with pickled cucumbers and Fresno chili peppers. Mighty Quinn's chicken wings are also incredible — slow smoked and fryer finished, the wings are tossed in a chili-lime sauce and garnished with toasted sesame seeds, scallions and cilantro.

Close by in section 134, fans will find a newly constructed Lobel's stand featuring the venerable meat purveyer's signature prime steak sandwich or steak fries. But the real home run here is Lobel's Meadow Burger, run here in the best part of the Everyone knows the best part of the flavorful, caramelized...

Barburger resides back in section 132 and offers its well-known commitment to using fresh, organic, responsible and sustainable ingredients. Four burgers are available here, with the surprising standout being the Gouda burger — a vegan treat with a housemade black bean burger, pickled red onions, spinach, guacamole and spicy pico de gallo served on a sprout bun.

And finally, over at the Frank's RedHot and Toyota terraces, you'll find the best deal at the stadium in the Yankee Dingers. Twelve dollars gets you three grilled custom-ground and hand-smashed mini-burgers with shaved white onions and French's yellow mustard on a steamed potato bun. Bigger and far more flavorful than a slider chain, the Dingers pack a big punch in a small package times three.

Then, at the Tenota Terrace,...

A taste of Yankee Stadium's home run grub

Barburger brings organics to Yankee Stadium.

Mighty Quinn's BBQ smokes to perfection.

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
 CATHY BONGIORNO
 PLAINVIEW - OLD BETHPAGE HERALD

"Yum — Made me hungry right away. Very clean layout and really nice feature story. Really nice job!"

Excellence Awards

BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Queens Tribune, Queens
Lorraine Milano
Very nice layout and use of space and color.
Very eye catching

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Very well laid out and very clear.
Not too much information.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Tribune, Queens
Lorraine Milano
Great lay out and use of color. Like the overlay of the photos

HONORABLE MENTION

New Hyde Park Illustrated News,
New Hyde Park
Caren Donatelli
A lot of information in one ad, but very easy to read

BEST LARGE SPACE AD

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva
Mary E. Thorpe
Great use of art. Colorful with lots going on.

SECOND PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Erica Izer
Great use of photos. Colorful and attention getting.

THIRD PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Stacey Frysingher
Attractive, clean ad for an auto dealer.

BEST SMALL SPACE AD

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park
Great imagery, placement, easy to read

SECOND PLACE

Livingston County News, Geneseo
Michelle Dries
Nice use of different font styles and background, appropriate and fun image.

THIRD PLACE

Putnam County News & Recorder,
Cold Spring
Virginia Califano
Stunning display of gemmed adornments.
Strong image use.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Highlands Current,
Philipstown
Kate Vikstrom
Great image and colors

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Wendy Mercier
Love the vertical ad. Great use of bleached photo with overlaid text.

SECOND PLACE

Wantagh Herald Citizen, Wantagh
Mona Waitzman
Clean, fun, all American ad.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Charlie Tumino
Great play on a service offered with photo and headline.

HONORABLE MENTION

Bellmore Herald Life, Bellmore
Gabriella Sobell

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Love this ad, as a former hair stylist, the states exactly what the salon offers.

SECOND PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
SailAway coffee comes right to the point, ad clearly works with their branding.

THIRD PLACE

Queens Ledger, Queens
Jennifer Khedaroo
Colorful, and fun, great pictures showing what they have to offer in the store along with setup.

HONORABLE MENTION

Amherst Bee, Williamsville
Teresa Eastman
The picture in the four corners will draw the eye to the ad, but the sentence in the heading in red with the white outline, the font wasn't clear enough.

DIVISION 4

FIRST PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Kianna Giroux
Straight to the point not crowded.
Clear and concise language.

SECOND PLACE

Olean Times Herald, Olean
Matt Keim
Missing a phone number.

THIRD PLACE

Olean Times Herald, Olean
Matt Keim
Great looking ad for trucks, includes contact info and website.

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Todd Soules

BEST MULTI-ADVERTISER PAGES

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Love the clean look and easy to read design

SECOND PLACE

The Highlands Current, Philipstown
Kate Vikstrom and Michele Gedney
Great layout, makes me want to go to camp!

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Karen Cullen
Very attractive! Love the idea.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Excellent design.

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Attractive Page.

SECOND PLACE

Press-Republican, Plattsburgh
Kianna Giroux
Great Use of Color

THIRD PLACE

Finger Lakes Times, Geneva
Mary E. Thorpe
Clean, great choice of art.

HONORABLE MENTION

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown
Teresa Cantwell
Simple and clean

BEST HOUSE AD / AD CAMPAIGN

DIVISION 1

FIRST PLACE

Albany Business Review, Albany
Kristina Walser
Straight to the point and not over loaded with information

SECOND PLACE

Williston Times, Williston Park
Yvonne Farley
Great use of space and nice color layout

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan and Michael Vee
Nice layout and perfectly suited to the section

HONORABLE MENTION

The Sag Harbor Express, Sag Harbor
Nice use of color and not too busy

DIVISION 2

FIRST PLACE

Syracuse New Times, Syracuse
Clever, clear and funny.

SECOND PLACE

Port Washington News, Port Washington
Alex Nuñez
This ad will resonate with the public.
Nice soft color.

THIRD PLACE

Glen Cove Herald Gazette, Glen Cove
Very clear and to the point.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Great use of space and like the color.

DIVISION 3

FIRST PLACE

Register-Star, Hudson
Erica Izer
Colorful, clean looking ad, call to action is a great statement.

SECOND PLACE

The Citizen, Auburn
Marci Barber
Powerful ads for readers,

THIRD PLACE

The Daily News, Batavia
Kim Diemoz
All the ads are clear, clean and great color, no issues with the font.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Daily Gazette, Schenectady

INNOVATIVE AD PROJECT

FIRST PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Unique idea, loved the layout and was very successful in sales.

SECOND PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Sonja Reinholt Derr and Tina Contento
Very creative idea and great revenue maker.

THIRD PLACE

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Grant Parpan, Kryssy Massa, Michelina da Fonte and Sonja Reinholt Derr
Nice idea to get the advertiser back.
Good content.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE

The Village Times Herald, Setauket
Clean precise, well spaced, not crowded, allows a reader to really review the materials.

SECOND PLACE

Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island
Karen Cullen
Clean well spaced no crowding of the information.

THIRD PLACE

Dan's Papers, Bridgehampton
Clever way of presenting home services and products.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Suffolk Times, Mattituck
Karen Cullen
Clean and well spaced between the ads with a touch of color.

BLOOPER OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

The Rockaway Times, Rockaway
Goes to show you how just one letter can change an entire imagine in your mind.

Best Art Photo, 2017

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 1
LOU REUTER, ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE

“What an amazing capture! To get this moment, with such amazing sharpness and beautiful compositions, is no small feat and no doubt took patience and skill.”

FIRST PLACE — DIVISION 2
CHRISTIAN K. LEE, WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

“The unique perspective and angle of this image made it stand out from many qualified entries. This composition and exposure brings what could be an average image and elevates it to an outstanding one.”



WEEKEND SATURDAY-SUNDAY June 10-11, 2017 \$15 (Circulation No. 177)

Rebuilding, one runner at a time

Recent Lake Placid Marathon finisher decline reflects national trend

By ANDY EVANS
For the Enterprise

LAKE PLACID — Rebuilding the Lake Placid Marathon and Half Marathon after being cancelled in 2016 is no easy feat. It's hard work, but it's a great way to get a runner's mind back on track.

“It's a very full-on effort,” says Doug Heston, who has been organizing the race since 2009. “I think it's a sign of a healthy community.”

The Lake Placid Marathon and Half Marathon were cancelled in 2016 due to a combination of factors, including a lack of funding and a decline in participation. However, the race is set to return in 2017, and organizers are working hard to rebuild the event.

“We're excited to see the race back on track,” says Heston. “It's a great way to get the community back on track.”



INSIDE Trump talks infrastructure National A2

Short hikes in the Adirondacks Outdoors B2

Owls Head hike in Keene closed on weekends

By JUSTIN A. LEVINE
Outdoors Writer

KEENE — The popular Owl's Head Mountain trail is closed on weekends for the remainder of the season, according to a statement from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Hungry bird

A song sparrow holds insects in its beak while feeding in a honeysuckle hedge late Thursday afternoon in Saranac Lake.



A song sparrow holds insects in its beak while feeding in a honeysuckle hedge late Thursday afternoon in Saranac Lake. (Photographer photo — Lou Reuter)

‘He had five angels there that day’

SLVFD members honored for saving fellow firefighter in rooftop fall

By CHRIS KNIGHT
Senior Staff Writer

LAKE PLACID — The Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department has named the Firefighter of the Year award for the second consecutive year this time for saving one of their own.



SLVFD members honored for saving fellow firefighter in rooftop fall. (Photo by Chris Knight)

Write-in candidate joins Fowler town justice race

By K. HENRY
Watertown Daily Times

FORBES — What was once a one-man election for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town is now a two-man race.



Byron S. Young is running for Fowler town justice. (Photo by K. Henry)

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track,” Mr. Young said. “I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track.”

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track,” Mr. Young said. “I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track.”

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track,” Mr. Young said. “I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track.”

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track,” Mr. Young said. “I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track.”

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track,” Mr. Young said. “I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track.”

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track,” Mr. Young said. “I want to see the town of Fowler get back on track.”

Mr. Young said he is running for the position of Justice of the Peace in Fowler town. He is a write-in candidate.

“We could be sued for not accepting — treating fairly — the low bidder,” board President Alan Pretnar said.

Superintendent Jerry Wesley said legal counsel agreed. “Instruction from our district attorney is clear,” Wesley said.

“Bids should be awarded to the low reliable bidder.”

James H. Poettker of Poettker Construction told the board that he understood their concerns in a letter a local bidder — he said — board himself — his

U.S. Border Patrol testing drones

PILOT PROGRAM: Franklin County part of one of three sectors evaluating use of unmanned aircraft

By FRANKLIN COUNTY
The U.S. Border Patrol is testing a pilot program in Franklin County, one of three sectors evaluating the use of unmanned aircraft.

The program is designed to help Border Patrol agents detect and deter illegal crossings. The drones will be used to monitor the border and provide real-time information to agents on the ground.

The program is part of a larger effort by the U.S. Border Patrol to modernize its operations and improve its ability to detect and deter illegal crossings.

The program is expected to be in full operation by the end of the year. The drones will be used to monitor the border and provide real-time information to agents on the ground.

The program is part of a larger effort by the U.S. Border Patrol to modernize its operations and improve its ability to detect and deter illegal crossings.

The program is expected to be in full operation by the end of the year. The drones will be used to monitor the border and provide real-time information to agents on the ground.

The program is part of a larger effort by the U.S. Border Patrol to modernize its operations and improve its ability to detect and deter illegal crossings.

The program is expected to be in full operation by the end of the year. The drones will be used to monitor the border and provide real-time information to agents on the ground.

REACH 65% of adults
In Jefferson County with Only Penny Saver

For Obit or Memorial Service
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

John Washburn
Call 315-661-2420

2017 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The Suffolk Times

Accumulating 305 contest points (70 points more than their closest competitor) the staff of *The Suffolk Times*, led by publisher Andrew Olsen, takes home 2017 Newspaper of the Year honors. The newspaper earned nine first place awards including the Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting, Coverage of Health, Healthcare and Science; Coverage of Crime, Police and Courts; Best Feature Story, Editorials, Best Use of Video, Best Online Dynamic, Magazine, and Best Large Space Ad.

The judges said, "I was hoping that the #1 choice would jump out and grab me, but it didn't happen until final entry of the contest was opened — the *Suffolk Times* story about the disappearance of Louise Pietrewicz. Not only is this the most compelling entry submitted, it also shows the best design work, and design can play a big part in drawing in a reader. The Times staff created an excellent report. It's a job very well done... None of the stories were run of the mill. All were well-written and informative. Great team work on the Gone package. I'm sure it took a lot of time and legwork to compile that story which was fascinating... These editorials went to great lengths to hold elected officials accountable and encourage dialogue in the community. All were very timely... Creative use of design to deliver a quality ad... What we liked most about this 108-page, self-cover, perfect-bound magazine — besides its beautiful layout and photography and quality content and writing — was that it was local, local, local from beginning to end. Even though the September 2017 was only the FOURTH edition of the *Northforker*, it is very well done and will find a space on many *Northforkers'* coffee tables. The advertising, of which there was abundance — enough to warm any publisher's heart, was all classy and nicely done... not a starburst to be found.

2017 STUART C. DORMAN AWARD FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

The Sag Harbor Express

The staff at *The Sag Harbor Express* earned 190 points in the editorial contest, led by co-publisher and Sports Writer of the Year, Gavin Menu, and Photographer of the Year, Michael Heller. The Express won first place for Photographic Excellence, Best Web Site, Coverage of Religion, Spot News Coverage, Picture Story, and Spot News Photos. The judges said, "If these two issues are representative of the rest of the year, the paper seems truly invested in religious news, with multiple stories per issue just from day-to-day beat coverage. The most comprehensive coverage of any entry... This entry was the clear winner in terms of extensive coverage. The staff did a nice job of varying the content by including the Q&A with a congressman and the "What brought you to march..." feature with photos of local participants.

2017 JOHN J. EVANS AWARD FOR ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE

Dan's Papers

Dan's Papers earned 90 points in the advertising contest, including first and second place awards for Best Small Space Ad, first place for Best Multi-Advertiser Pages, and first place for Innovative Ad Project. The judges said, "Love this ad... ad works clearly with their branding... love the clean look and easy-to-read design... unique idea, love the layout, very successful in sales."

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

JOHN J. EVANS

John J. Evans is the former executive vice president of Bee Publications, Inc., Buffalo.

Evans is a past president of the New York Press Association and the New York Press Service.

Acknowledging the countless hours Evans has devoted to assisting 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 | 2005 - The Scarsdale Inquirer |
| 1992 - The Riverdale Press | 2006 - The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition |
| 1993 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | 2007 - The River Reporter |
| 1994 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | 2008 - The East Hampton Press |
| 1995 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | 2009 - The Suffolk Times |
| 1996 - The Record-Review | 2010 - Nassau Herald |
| 1997 - The Record-Review | 2011 - The Village Times Herald |
| 1998 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | 2012 - The Record-Review |
| 1999 - The Record-Review | 2013 - TIE — The Record-Review and The Epoch Times |
| 2000 - The Village Times | 2014 - The Epoch Times |
| 2001 - The Record-Review | 2015 - Dan's Papers |
| 2002 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | 2016 - The Sag Harbor Express |
| 2003 - The Record-Review | 2017 - Dan's Papers |
| 2004 - The Scarsdale Inquirer | |

2017 BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Tarmac

Tarmac, from Chaminade High School in Mineola, repeats as Best High School Newspaper in New York State. The newspaper staff earned 110 contest points, including first place awards for General Excellence, Feature Story, Best Web Site and Best Use of Social Media. The judges said, "Great front-page story... Good 5 question feature.

Center spread is a treat for readers and a creative layout opportunity. Overall, great writing — crisp and engaging.

Photos are also appropriate for the stories and lots of faces... Consistent, magazine-style layout. Your readers know what to expect. You soar with your inside spread — and make good use of design elements — type, art and photos. Visually appealing. Your cover stories are well written."



GENERAL EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
Great front page story. Good 5 question feature. Center spread is a treat for readers and a creative layout opportunity. Overall, great writing — crisp and engaging. Photos are also appropriate for the stories and lots of faces.

SECOND PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Great front page photos — nice work on the feature stories — easy to read. Photos overall are nicely done; a lot of good people shots. Original art is a plus as well. It is good when you do some of that community news coverage as well. Some nice design, especially on profile features. Overall, it looks like you have fun and are engaged in your work and that translates to the reader.

THIRD PLACE

Hoofbeats, Sanford Calhoun High School
Love the big, clear, crisp photos of people throughout. The photos really tell the story. A lot of opinion... perhaps more feature? There seems to be a lot going on at your school, and you cover a lot of it. Keep that up. Like the yes-no editorial idea. Cute "culture" label too. There is news here, well told, and that is what it is all about.

HONORABLE MENTION

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Why sports on every cover? Nice crisp photos overall — lots of faces. In your masthead, add publication information: how often published, where available, etc.? There is a difference between consistency and repetition — i.e. pull out quotes. Good writing throughout.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Nick Dohre

This story about a Holocaust survivor's talk to students got off to a slow start, but once it warmed up, it was a clear, concise account of the speech. Reaction from students and teachers was mixed in with quotes from the speaker and background information. The result was a compelling read that not only covered highlights of the speech but also its impact on students.

SECOND PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
Nicholas Plante
Nicholas Plante did a remarkable job telling the story of a couple's walk across America. He mixes description of the trip with quotes from both travelers in a tale that is compelling and readable. It's long, but it doesn't feel long. It has an attention-grabbing lead, a narrative style and a thoughtful ending.

THIRD PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Kevin Stracuse
A light-hearted news story about a fun high school musical. The story comes to life when you hear from the different cast members and how they feel to be a part of the production. You can feel the excitement for the show.

HONORABLE MENTION

Focus, Blind Brook High School
Abe Baker-Butler
This is an admirable effort to tackle a difficult story. The content is solid, but the writing is a little rough.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
Owen Barthel
Layout — various tributes and information all add up to a well told tale that I read through to the end. That's the sign of a good story — that your reader wants to stay with it. It was a life well lived and then well told, in depth and seemingly accurately. I would only ask the source of all of the biographical information on the subject.

SECOND PLACE

The Phoenix Kellenberg Memorial High School
Kimberly Lorez
Interesting. A lot of background work is here/evident in the writing — remember to cite those sources in the story. Pictures could be bigger and some of the dollhouse history shorter, focusing more on the woman and the houses on display. I read it without skipping — sign of a well crafted story.

THIRD PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Lilly Fuentes
This story is to the point, appropriate sources and information! And it impact students! So many features I read were not about the students themselves! This is, and it is a good, informative read. Better and more photos would also add to the good words.

HONORABLE MENTION

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Haylea-Ann Self
This writer gets it — a feature featuring people and sources and not the writer's opinions or advice. Nice mix of local and national sourcing and no commentary. Writing flows well from one source and piece of info to the next. There were a lot of entries from the school — good efforts and work — but this one put the focus on the school sources and students in covering a health issue. That is what it is all about, localization — seeing your school and staff and students in the stories.

COLUMN

FIRST PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Elise Miller
National issues, but better suited/written to students, especially rape culture column, which makes use of information from local sourcing. You are writing for a local, peer audience. Write to impact them, not society as a whole. Your columns work best when you do so. Well written and thoughtfully done.

SECOND PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Vincent Gullo
I like the community aspect to the "Bottles, Cans" column. You make a good point and pointed at students, your peers and the younger local students. Columns should be about issues that impact your community. The "Women" one is fine, but make it more local. What kinds of problems, challenges, triumphs are happening closer to home? Feature your readers as much as possible. Well written, easy to follow and to a point. Thanks.

THIRD PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Anna Schrauth
Write longer because you do write well. The "ferocious" column is great — a good topic and some sensible, to the point writing and thinking. Keep your stories at your peers' level, things that impact you. And yes, do more writing. Your voice needs to be out there.

HONORABLE MENTION

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Keith Piper
Issues deal with students, and use few sources — I want more. Write to the point, but don't short-change your audience. You are a good writer but I need to see more — local sources, data. Keep at it.

DESIGN

FIRST PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Love the front covers — A magazine style, but you choose the best, inviting photos, of students! How often do you publish? Put it in your masthead. Nice inside pages, clean, inviting, they stand on their own in terms of layout and design and successful function. A lot of news in these pages, well presented and engaging. The design is inviting, not overly fancy, throughout. It kept me "turning" the pages. Overall, a pleasant, visual read. Take some more risks now that you have this down! Are you related in some way to Brocton? Similar styles, but you come out ahead on variety, design.

SECOND PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
Consistent, magazine-style layout. Your readers know what to expect. You soar with your inside spread — and make good use of design elements — type, art and photos. Visually appealing. Your cover stories are well written and appropriate for your publication. (Where are the women? — Just kidding!) (It took me a moment...) Put your publishing information in your masthead — how often you publish. Point/Counterpoint is a good feature, otherwise, I'd like to see less editorial content overall — especially when you seem to have so much good school news and work. Your writing overall is engaging, seemingly accurate and well sourced!

THIRD PLACE

Hoofbeats
Clean, consistent. I like the big hedges — they are accurate as well as eye-catching. Are you a monthly? Include this in your masthead — how often you publish. While I get this is an outlet for student voices — I think there are too many editorials. Only two sports pages? More community news? One design flaw that stood out — theatre photos on a sports page. Otherwise, design makes sense throughout the editions. Good big photos. Many are more photo-journalistic than posed. Liked the "Bald" photos — engaging.

HONORABLE MENTION

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Consistent, clean layout — a more magazine style. The photos are crisp, but mostly posed, not photojournalism. On the other hand, the sports photos are very nice — action, clean, clear. I love the community coverage in the October issue. Way to go. It is school and community. Writing overall is great.

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Kyleigh Warren
This has all the elements of a winning photo: composition, emotion, focus and technical quality. Photographer Kyleigh Warren uses depth of field to focus the viewer on two cheering faces, while using the rule of thirds to place them perfectly. Emotion practically jumps out of the image. The page designer carefully placed the headline so it didn't distract, creating a dynamic magazine cover.

SECOND PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
The thrill of competition is delivered dramatically in this photo of three hurdlers. The expressions on each face is clear, straining to compete. The composition is solid, with the faces spread along the upper third. Viewers feel as if they're in the race.

THIRD PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Molly Kucharski
Sports photography is all about capturing the moment, as well as evoking emotion. This well-composed image of a baseball pitcher just letting go of the ball nails both the moment of the release and the emotion on the picture's face.

HONORABLE MENTION

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Patrick Yunghans
This is one of several excellent portraits. It's hard to compete in a general photography category. In a portrait category, this would be a winner.

BEST SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Brocton Review, Brocton Central School
Tim Odell
Reporter Tim Odell blends an overview story on a professional basketball team that is using the high school's gym with a feature on a workshop held for the high school team. The story offers several voices — high school students, members of the professional team, and coaches — talking about the professional team and the student athletes' unique practice with professionals.

SECOND PLACE

Spectator, Fredonia Central High School
Sydney Swan
A retiring coach is only a great story if the reporter digs deeper than the usual cliches. Sydney Swan offers some of those cliches, but also provides a broader view of the retiring football and track coach. Along with the coach, a variety of students are quoted, offering several different perspectives. The result is a well-rounded look at a coach that has been important to the school.

THIRD PLACE

Hoofbeats, Sanford Calhoun High School
Sofia Liguori and Carly Rogers
Sometimes you use the best quote right after the lead. Sometimes in the climax. Reporters Sofia Liguori and Carly Rogers chose to end their feature story on a girl kicker playing on the boy's football team with a wonderful quote: "All I can do is thank them for allowing me to be the sister to the brotherhood." They made other smart choices throughout, weaving together a solid story on a girl being accepted by the boys.

HONORABLE MENTION

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
Chris Mercadante
It's hard to pull off writing a news story first person. Chris Mercadante gave it a shot, and for the most part pulled it off. This is a solid, well-written piece on the soccer team's three state championships in a row. It probably would have been a winner if he hadn't had to deal with writing about a game he played in.

BEST WEB SITE

FIRST PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School
Nicely done site — and still keeping up with your print product — great. You make good use of the features of digital — links, video, and promoting and using other social media platforms such as Twitter. Love your use of photos and also of videos throughout. Rail on the right side when stories are clicked is a good idea, takes the clutter away from other pages. Kudos on Wordpress knowledge here, put to good use by the web master. Keep it up. You are certainly on the right track and are serving your readers well.

SECOND PLACE

Focus, Blind Brook High School
B. Wei and Jack Wells
Bravo on having a website. Many of your other high schools do not. It is a LOT of work. It would be great to have two teams, one print, one online, but that is not the case in the "real" world either. You have some nice features. Remember to use links — you can link to athletic pages, weather, etc.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

FIRST PLACE

Tarmac, Chaminade High School

2017 BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

The Ithacan



We don't know what to call a team that wins the same award 16 times, so we'll just call it the Best College Newspaper. *The Ithacan* earned 185 points in the college contest, winning first place awards for General Excellence, Feature Story, Column, Photography, Best Sports Coverage, Editorial, and Best Use of Social Media.

The judges said, "Good writing, solid design that follows basic principles, great photography.

There is a lot to love in the *Ithacan* and it is done at a very high level. Wonderful work Ithacan staff... Vinica did a great job telling a difficult story. I appreciated that she set it up what happened to Brandon in the first few graphs then "chunked" the rest of it with each section having a beginning, middle and end. The section that takes us back to Brandon receiving the news about his father is harrowing. Very effective writing that helps pull you in. This is one of the best pieces in the entire contest...By far the most personal column of the bunch. Mahad is honest and shows his vulnerability to his readers as he describes his crisis of faith and the loss of his family connection. In the end he tells us he finally feels like he has found a place to belong. His description of that harrowing journey to get there — and the economy of words he uses to tell that story — earned him this award. Thank you for telling your story... This is a well-lit, beautifully composed shot. Cropped perfectly. The strongest of the group. Beautiful work..."

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
The most complete entry by far. Good writing, solid design that follows basic principles, great photography. There is a lot to love in this newspaper and it is done at a very high level. Wonderful work!

SECOND PLACE

Albany Student Press, Albany
Overall, this is a fine publication. You offer readers a variety of content, but you need some fine-tuning in many areas. When you address these deficits your publication will be even more impressive. You have some significant issues with design. After the very attractive front page, the design starts to fall apart because you do not follow basic design principles. Many photos don't have cutlines — that's a big no-no for me. (Also, PLEASE stop taking photos of signs). Consider that when you capitalize every word in your headlines your eye begins to create proper nouns where there are none. Leads, sportswriting, headline hierarchy . focus on the details and you have the potential to win this category next year.

THIRD PLACE

The Hill News,
St. Lawrence University
Daniel Banta
The Oct. 6 front page was stunning. I was expecting a lot more of those design and photography moments and was disappointed that I didn't find them. Overall, your content is strong — work on improving headlines, design and creating a style for your publication.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Oswegonian, SUNY Oswego
Good content. Well-written stories, solid headlines. If you work to improve your design and photography you could take this category.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE

Cardinal Points, Plattsburgh
Rebecca Natale
An excellent example of the power of detail-rich, public records reporting. Great job sifting through 70 pages of witness testimony and interviews to thoroughly convey the cruelty inflicted upon students by members of Pi Alpha Nu. Well done!

SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Kayla Dwyer
Kayla does a fine job exploring the challenges low-income students face at her university. As a reader I appreciated all of the personal storytelling moments from the sources like when Mohamed is asked by his mother if he is alright after moving in. The glossary of terms was a nice touch. The graphs also help bring the issue into focus. It would have benefitted from more extensive editing — it was too long.

THIRD PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Grace Elletson and Meaghan McElroy
A well-written account of contract talks that almost gives readers the sense of what it was like to be there in the room. The writers did an excellent job covering the details of what the contract provides for faculty while giving us a sense of the urgency faced by all involved. This was fun to read!

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Vinica Weiss
The writer did a great job telling a difficult story. I appreciated that she set up what happened to Brandon in the first few graphs then "chunked" the rest of it with each section having a beginning, middle and end. The section that takes us back to Brandon receiving the news about his father is harrowing. Very effective writing that helps pull you in. This is one of the best pieces in the entire contest!

SECOND PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College
Liv Meier
Liv does a great job sharing the perspective of this very "non-traditional" student. It's inspiring and offers a perspective of part of the university's outreach that most students were probably unaware of. Excellent work!

THIRD PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Kalia Komegay and Celisa Calacal
A well-written look at a complex and interesting cultural issue. The writers do a fine job providing a historic perspective and making it relevant to today's students too. This was a fun read that also taught me things I didn't already know!

HONORABLE MENTION

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Samantha Cavelli
This is a well-written, fun story. The writer did a wonderful job conveying Anton's personality in the piece. This easily could have turned out silly, instead she makes readers want to sign up and join the cheer team.

COLUMN

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Mahad Olad
By far the most personal column of the bunch. The writer is honest and shows his vulnerability to his readers as he describes his crisis of faith and the loss of his family connection. In the end he tells us he finally feels like he has found a place to belong. His description of that harrowing journey to get there — and the economy of words he uses to tell that story — earned him this award. Thank you for telling your story.

SECOND PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College
Kayla Simas
Really wonderful, personal writing. She picked deeply personal topics and shared her truth with readers. These almost seem more appropriate for a literary journal, because the length of the pieces was a problem for me. Sometimes less is more. Write tighter and keep up the excellent storytelling.

THIRD PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College
Liv Meier
Wonderful, personal writing. Any dad would love to have a daughter gush about him in the student newspaper, and this could have come off as weird or too personal. Instead, she showed readers how her father impacted her life. I'm also sure dad would be proud of the intelligent, feisty defense of women's reproductive rights also included here.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Pioneer, St. John Fisher College
Gillian Pietrowski
I liked the tone. The writer is developing an effective voice for a columnist. Try to get the point, or theme, of each column a little quicker.

DESIGN

FIRST PLACE

Reporter Magazine,
Rochester Institute of Technology
Reporter, in some ways, has an unfair advantage over the competition in that it is a magazine and is published monthly. Its colorful, graphic-heavy magazine look pretty much blows everything else in this category away. You take big chances with your style, particularly the cover, and most of them pay off. Your illustrators are fantastic, and if they worked for me I'd showcase them as much as you do too. However, I encourage you to show your photographers some more love — they could have played a larger role here and taken you to the next level. Keep up the excellent work!

SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Hayley Tarleton and Nicole Peter
Of the traditional "newspaper" publications, this is the best looking of the bunch. It features a clean design, smartly-written headlines and many smart, economical visual decisions. The Jan. 26 spread is a thing of beauty! Some of your best photos tend to be posed, otherwise they are a bit boring. How about working with your photojournalists a bit to give you a few more moments you can exploit through design? Also, unless you have an exceptionally good cartoonist, sometimes it's better to NOT have cartoons.

THIRD PLACE

Fordham Observer, Fordham University
Great design will draw in readers. This is a very traditional design. I would love to see you take some chances and clean up some of the problems. You are not following basic rules for headlines (using double quotes in heds) and photos (they should have frames).

HONORABLE MENTION

The Hill News, St. Lawrence University
Daniel Banta
The cover of the Oct. 6 edition is gorgeous! That is the best design moment in your submission — after that it's a lot of grey space. Show your inside pages some more love!

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Connor Lange
This is a well-lit, beautifully composed shot. Cropped perfectly. The strongest of the group. Beautiful work!

SECOND PLACE

Cardinal Points, Plattsburgh
Nathanael LePage
The strongest of the sports images by a wide margin. It is cropped a little too tight for my taste. Whoever was allowed to put the story on top of your wonderful photo should rethink their life choices (PLEASE STOP DOING THAT!). It's a great moment you captured. It's all about being in the right spot at the right time.

THIRD PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Connor Lange
This is a nice image that could be improved with a much tighter crop.

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Caitie Ihrig and Samantha Cavalli
The Bombers are lucky that you give them such ample attention. There is an excellent variety of content (no opinion columns though!) covering the full range of sports at the university. Design and photography really make your work look great. Very nicely done!

SECOND PLACE

The Oswegonian, SUNY Oswego
Cole Parzych, Ryan Zaldunondo, Luke Scoville and Joe Porpora
Very nice hockey section. There is a deceiving amount of information packed in just a few pages. The design feels a bit cluttered. Great job!

EDITORIAL

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
The editorial criticizing the tenure of the college president was particularly well-written. You acknowledged his strengths and then point-by-point addressed his leadership failures – lack of collaboration, transparency problems, his unwillingness to listen to students of color. Your editorial urging support for faculty members of color was also well-reasoned and thoughtful. Honestly, I think the illustrations undermine the strong writing underneath them. Keep up the great work!

SECOND PLACE

The Impact, Mercy College
Kayla Simas and Laine Griffin
Excellent storytelling. You are preaching, and I mean that in the best possible way — there is lots of fire in your words. Now, about the number of words ... like most of the other contenders in this category your pieces are overwritten. Sometimes when making an argument to your readers, less IS more.

THIRD PLACE

Fordham Observer, Fordham University
Good work, overall. Your editorial writing needs refinement. These editorials should have been edited down to help keep the reader's attention. I counted one SENTENCE in the "Democracy" editorial that was more than 50 words long.

BEST WEB SITE

FIRST PLACE

Reporter Magazine,
Rochester Institute of Technology
Michael Canning, Efe Ozturkoglu
Sharp design that set you apart from the rest of the pack. It's colorful, easy to navigate and loads quickly. When you click on a story, the author's profile and a list of their recent stories comes up on the right side. That's a great look I'm going to steal (sorry, not sorry). No matter the section, your stories run LONG for web content. What is the difference between the "Views" and "Op-Ed" tabs? Love the podcasts! They sound great and are engaging. It looks like you have a pretty strong social media game — you should promote that on your home page (right now only a couple of recent tweets appear). I would say your videos are a strength, but besides the YouTube icon they don't have a presence on your website. Why? They should be front and center and attracting traffic to your site — don't send people to YouTube.

SECOND PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
It's a clean design that is easy to navigate. It's the "safest" design of the group. Some of your stories are quite long for web content, in addition the body font is a bit small. There is a good variety of content. Lit magazine is a cool addition and the choice to isolate the Year In Review edition at the bottom of the page is smart. Past Deadline is a great-sounding, smart podcast that tackles big issues (the one on the president's sexual abuse charge is fantastic) and takes readers behind the scenes. You are the ONLY entry that sells ads on your website — kudos to you for monetizing the site. Well done!

THIRD PLACE

Fordham Observer, Fordham University
Clean design. News and feature sections were full of excellent content. Your sports section is quite thin. There must be something to cover there! Health and tech sections are rarely updated. You don't have many videos — I encourage you to use this as a storytelling tool. Your photojournalists are contributing wonderful art — I especially enjoyed the tattoo feature with the audio story. I like the addition of The Comma, a place for literary pieces and poetry.

HONORABLE MENTION

The Hill News, St. Lawrence University
James Lehner and Innocent Owour
A great-looking website! A big, bold image at the top of the site and a slider featuring additional content and adding movement. The story landing pages are clean and easy to read — some of the stories though are too long for web content. Where are your videos and multimedia content? You are going to write about bands and not give me audio and video? You have turned a beautiful website into a place to dump stories instead of using it to expand your storytelling opportunities. The Hill News Radio program is fine, though slow moving and 40 minutes long (the last one was posted 2 years ago?). Also, has anyone noticed the read more button at the bottom of the page takes you to an undeveloped WordPress page filled with

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

FIRST PLACE

The Ithacan, Ithaca College
Your social media game is strong! Videos are well-produced. Facebook and Twitter are solid. It seems you only use FB and Twitter to promote existing content — consider creating unique content to try to increase your reactions and engagement. It's clear you are at your most creative on Instagram. Keep having fun with those videos and images.

SECOND PLACE

The Ram, Fordham University
Your Facebook page is active and full of recent content. Make sure you use images will ALL of your posts. Your videos need an upgrade — poor production and sound issues were frequent. Pick appropriate places (not echo-prone rooms or busy common areas) to shoot, ditch the wacky camera angles and work on the sound. Also, consider doing some social-only content to increase engagements and reactions. For instance, create a post for "best pizza" and allow users to "vote" with a reaction (Like, Happy, Sad, etc.)

THIRD PLACE

The Ram, Fordham University
You are prolific Tweeters. I encourage you to use more interesting and engaging words. Some of your Tweets were bland. Be careful what you Tweet — there are some fairly generic national and entertainment stories on your feed. Stay local — promote the content about YOUR university — or you run the risk of getting lost in the feed with the other "Cloverfield" and "Jumanji" reviews.

PRINTING OF THIS AWARDS NEWSPAPER
COURTESY OF



Editor's Note

Members of the Michigan Press Association judged the contest entries in January — no small task — there were 2,783 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



Congrats...
to all of our winners!

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
2017 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST